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Afghan Peace Effort Hits A Snag at a Crucial Point

Rapid Gains by Taleban Fighting Force May Make UN Envoy's Plan Irrelevant

By John F. Burns
New York Times Service

KABUL — After years of frustration, a United Nations effort to bring peace to Afghanistan has reached a crucial point as an envoy has begun a round of shuttle diplomacy aimed at bringing the main warring groups into a new coalition government.

The UN representative, Mahmoud Mestiri, had hoped that a new multiparty governing council would take power in Kabul, the capital, on Monday. But as he opened the talks, Mr. Mestiri said that deadline would not be met.

The peace effort seemed to have snagged on the very thing that had brought rapid momentum to Mr. Mestiri's efforts in recent weeks: the sudden military successes of a new Afghan fighting force known as Taleban.

In four months, it has taken control of nearly half the country in an offensive that began in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second-largest city.

It now appears that the transition is days away, if not longer, as Afghan factions jockey to improve their political positions. The Associated Press reported Sunday from Kabul.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani has agreed to step down, but he indicated Sunday that he first wants the Taleban to join the commission. The Taleban generally support the UN peace plan, but so far have refused to sign up. They seek a strict Islamic government and say they will not join any council unless it is made up of "good Muslims."

In Islamabad, Pakistan, meanwhile, a fundamentalist mujahid leader withdrew his nominee from the proposed council Sunday, accusing Mr. Mestiri of trying to impose an un-Islamic government, Agence France-Presse reported. Mawlawi Yunus Khalis of the Islamic Party faction announced his support for Taleban, but asked them "not to deviate" from their proclaimed goal of enforcing strict Islamic law.

The Taleban sprang up when students at Muslim religious schools banded together last fall to rid the country of armed factions that had divided the country into fiefs and preyed on ordinary Afghans.

Last week, Taleban units pushed almost to the gates of Kabul, then halted, apparently to review tactics for dealing with the

government of President Rabbani. After arriving here on Friday, Mr. Mestiri acknowledged that the Taleban offensive had changed the political landscape in a way that could alter or even doom his plans, although peace efforts are closer to success than at any time since they began more than a decade ago.

"When I took this job, everybody said it was mission impossible, but I said, I will try," said Mr. Mestiri, a former foreign minister of Tunisia. "Now, I think we made some progress. We are heading in the right direction. But how long it will take, God alone knows."

In earlier talks with Mr. Mestiri, Mr. Rabbani agreed to cede power to a new transitional governing council made up of representatives of the mujahid, Muslim resistance groups that formed to battle Soviet forces that occupied Afghanistan in 1979.

The Soviet forces withdrew in 1989, and the mujahid fell into civil war among themselves three years later when the Soviet-installed Communist government in Kabul collapsed.

Along with those eight groups from the anti-Soviet resistance, the new council proposed by the United Nations would include five regional groups that have established power in key provincial cities.

With each of these groups taking one seat on the council, for a total of 13, Mr. Mestiri proposed adding an almost equal number of "prominent personalities," individuals who have played no part in the fighting that ravaged the country for the last 16 years.

The UN plan made little headway until last month, when the swift successes of the Taleban, pressing toward Kabul from Kandahar, persuaded several warring factions to bury their differences and accept the proposal.

The problem now is that the Taleban advance may have made the new council irrelevant. The UN plan makes no provision for the Taleban, and the Taleban appear reluctant to join the council or even to be linked to it.

A key factor in the Taleban's successes has been the movement's rejection of all former resistance groups.

For its part, the Rabbani government has been relieved of its most pressing problem by the Taleban rout last week of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, one of the most ruthless of the former resistance leaders.



PROGRESS IN CHINA — Lee Sands, a U.S. trade representative, leaving a briefing Sunday in Beijing after talks aimed at averting sanctions against China. He said progress was made, but more talks have been scheduled. Page 11.

Bonn's Free Democrats Score — at Last

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Germany's Free Democrats returned to the Hesse state assembly in elections on Sunday after nine successive defeats in regional voting, according to computer projections.

The result was an important reprieve for Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, who has seen the party lose every state vote since he took over as Free Democrats leader in 1993.

"The FDP is back, the trend has been broken," said Guido Westerwelle, who was brought in as general secretary of the national Free Democrats after the party

squeaked back into Parliament in the general election.

The incumbent "red-green" state coalition of Social Democrats and environmentalists was re-elected, with the Social Democrats getting about 38 percent and the Greens almost 12 percent, according to the projections for ARD and ZDF television.

ARD estimated Free Democrat support at 7.6 percent while ZDF put it at 6.7 percent, above the 5 percent minimum vote needed to win seats in the state legislature in Wiesbaden.

Mr. Kinkel's party faces another hurdle in May when voters go to the polls in

Germany's largest and smallest states, North Rhine-Westphalia and Bremen.

"It's not a great result, but in view of the setbacks in the past it is impressive," said Ignatz Bubis, a Frankfurt Free Democrat leader who is also head of Germany's Jewish community.

The Social Democrats, led by Premier Hans Eichel, scored 38.5 percent in the ARD projection, and 39.3 according to ZDF.

Voter turnout, amid the winds and rain lashing the state all day, was only around 50 percent.

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Kohl Appeals For Harmony As IG Metall Plans Strike

A Walkout Could Derail Germany's Recovery, Chancellor Cautions

By Brandon Mitchener
International Herald Tribune

FRANKFURT — Warning that low-wage competition was only "a bike ride away" in the Czech Republic, Chancellor Helmut Kohl appealed Sunday to German labor unions and employers to avoid a bitter conflict.

Mr. Kohl's comments came on the eve of the first strike vote in 10 years by IG Metall, the powerful German metalworkers' union. He appealed for the two sides to resolve their differences for the sake of German competitiveness and social harmony.

The chancellor warned that Germans had to work harder than ever to maintain prosperity, especially since wages in neighboring countries like the Czech Republic were one-tenth of German levels.

"Psychologically, we have to get up a minute earlier than the others," Mr. Kohl told an audience of bankers in Frankfurt even as IG Metall, the nation's largest labor union, was preparing to strike for higher wages in addition to a shorter working week.

A strike vote was set to begin Monday and Tuesday in the state of Bavaria, which has not experienced a metalworkers strike in 40 years. The last nationwide metalworkers strike, in 1984, lasted several weeks and brought much of West German manufacturing to a standstill.

Klaus Zwickel, chairman of IG Metall, told the weekly Bild am Sonntag newspaper that the union was prepared to strike "as long as it takes employers to grasp that they have to pay higher wages and leave other contracts untouched." The union has demanded a 6 percent rise in wages for 1995.

Employers, government officials and economists, however, warned that a full-scale strike could backfire. "This conflict has the potential to destroy more jobs than all the other labor conflicts before it," Hans-Joachim Göttsche, president of the Gesamtmetall employers' federation, told the weekly Welt am Sonntag.

Labor Minister Norbert Blum warned that a strike could stunt Germany's economic recovery. "The tender spring shoots in the economy cannot withstand the hoarfrost of a strike," he told Bild am Sonntag. "It would put us back months."

Some economists said that even if a wage rise were moderate, the Bundesbank, Germany's central bank, could respond with higher interest rates.

"Even without a pay increase in 1995, wage costs would be set to rise by 1.5 percent on the year" as a result of the introduction of a 35-hour workweek beginning in October, economists at the investment firm of Goldman, Sachs wrote in a recent report.

"An additional 'reasonable' wage increase of 3.0 percent would leave the employers with an increase in total wage costs

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AGENDA

Portugal Party Picks New Head

LISBON (AP) — The governing Social Democratic Party on Sunday elected Defense Minister Fernando Nogueira to succeed Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva as party leader.

Mr. Cavaco Silva is to step down when general elections are held later this year, and the Mr. Nogueira will be his party's candidate for prime minister.

Mr. Nogueira, 42, won the party leadership with a 66-vote advantage over Foreign Minister José Manuel Durão Barroso, with 1,000 delegates voting, the news agency Lusa reported.

Israeli-Arab Exercise

JERUSALEM (Reuters) — Israel is to join at least eight Arab countries in a Canadian-sponsored naval exercise in the Mediterranean next month, Israeli Defense Ministry officials said on Sunday.

The exercise off the Tunisian coast will be the first of its kind involving Israel and Arab states.

U.S. Looks to Japan Ties

PARIS — Ever since classical times, gourmets have extolled the fragrant virtues of the truffle. Known as the "black diamond" because of its rarity and value, it is especially revered in France, where culture is defined by the taste bud as much as by the eye or the mind.

But as truffle fans are discovering, there is nothing sacred in the modern marketplace. While Americans complain of China's piracy in the electronics trade, the French are crying foul because an invasion of Chinese truffles that has enabled unscrupulous dealers to perpetrate fraud against one of the greatest national culinary delights.

For centuries, French truffle hunters have engaged in an annual ritual from December to March, taking pigs and trained dogs on hikes through the Dordogne and Périgord to unearth the hard, black fungus that proliferates near the roots of oak trees. Other foragers look for swarms of yellow flies that often can be found dancing in the air over a truffle trove at sunset.

The Asian intruder bears an almost perfect resemblance to the tuber *melanosporum* of France. Any superficial disparities can only be detected when the spores of the truffle are examined under a microscope.

But taste is another matter. Unlike the rich pungency of the

Global Alliances Offer Air Travelers One-Stop Ease

By Michael Richardson
International Herald Tribune

BANGKOK — Alliances between Asia-Pacific airlines and their former rivals from Europe and the United States are laying the basis for powerful global travel networks offering passengers greater convenience and forcing greater consolidation in air travel.

In the most recent of such accords, three companies — Thai Airways International Ltd., Thailand's national airline; Lufthansa AG, the German flag-carrier; and UAL Corp., parent of United Airlines —

are working out details of an agreement that officials said will enable passengers eventually to fly to over 500 destinations worldwide as if they were on a single airline.

The Thai Airways president, Thamnoon Wanlee, said the alliance agreement joined "three networks which together circle the globe."

Although Thai Airways had previously announced separate commercial agreements in general terms with United and Lufthansa, officials of the three airlines recently spelled out specific steps that will be taken by all three.

Starting next month, passengers will be able to earn mileage points and redeem travel awards on the frequent flyer programs of any of the three partner carriers.

Later in the year, Lufthansa and Thai Airways will start coordinating schedules, sharing lounges and airport facilities, feeding passengers from their long-distance services into each other's domestic and regional flights, and operating aircraft with joint flight designators — a practice known as code-sharing.

Lufthansa and United already have a trans-Atlantic alliance in operation that offers passengers about 100 joint services

daily to 55 destinations in the United States and Europe.

Once the U.S. and Thai governments make final their new bilateral air services agreement, probably later this year, United and Thai Airways can begin joint trans-Pacific flights and schedule coordination, officials said.

"Customers nowadays are demanding access to a global system, not single airline networks," said Hendrik B. van Opstal, general manager of United Airlines in Singapore.

Similar global alliances, reinforced by

U.S. Military in Europe: Top Combat Force Hunts New Role

By Rick Atkinson
Washington Post Service

SCHWEINFURT, Germany — As the U.S. military in Europe nears the end of its most radical restructuring in a generation, the force that remains to safeguard American interests bears little resemblance to the one that occupied the Continent for nearly a half-century.

The sharp reduction of troops, from 336,000 when the Berlin Wall fell in November 1989 to an anticipated 100,000 by this autumn, involves dramatic changes in the way soldiers in Europe live and how they prepare to fight, how they think about war and how they think about peace.

Once large and entrenched, the force is now small and mobile.

Once preoccupied with defense, the force now trains to attack as well as to defend.

Once prepared to fight World War III, the force now faces missions ranging from major land wars to peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance.

Once certain who its enemy would be, the force now is certain of nothing.

Commanders watch the evolution of the U.S.-European security relationship with wary interest, and, often, ill-concealed skepticism. Many privately remain unpersuaded of the wisdom to a NATO expansion that extends the American nuclear umbrella to, say, Hungary and Slovakia; they wonder what Poland

or the Czech Republic could contribute to American security in exchange for the warrant of American lives.

And they hope that political leaders and the public at home fully grasp the implications of transforming the world's most proficient combat force into a go-anywhere, do-anything expeditionary legion.

"If we're going to use the military in ways other than in an old-fashioned lining up of two armies to beat the living daylight out of each other, it's very important that the political side of the house describe what they want the military to do," said General David M. Maddox, now retired, in an interview in December, shortly before his departure as commander of the U.S. Army in Europe.

The speed and extent of the drawdown in Europe

has been breathtaking. It is here, particularly in Germany, that the shrinking of the U.S. armed forces permitted by the end of the Cold War has hit most heavily.

The U.S. Air Force in Europe has been reduced to six major bases, compared to 16 in 1990. From 636 aircraft and almost nine fighter wings, the air force is down to 214 planes and two wings. The number of active-duty air force personnel has dropped from 71,000 to fewer than 31,000.

For the army, which has long been the dominant service on the Continent in terms of size and geographic sprawl, the contraction is even more dramatic. While the army as a whole is slimming down from

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French Trufflers Sniff Out Asian Fraud

By William Drozdiak
Washington Post Service

PARIS — Ever since classical times, gourmets have extolled the fragrant virtues of the truffle. Known as the "black diamond" because of its rarity and value, it is especially revered in France, where culture is defined by the taste bud as much as by the eye or the mind.

But as truffle fans are discovering, there is nothing sacred in the modern marketplace. While Americans complain of China's piracy in the electronics trade, the French are crying foul because an invasion of Chinese truffles that has enabled unscrupulous dealers to perpetrate fraud against one of the greatest national culinary delights.

For centuries, French truffle hunters have engaged in an annual ritual from December to March, taking pigs and trained dogs on hikes through the Dordogne and Périgord to unearth the hard, black fungus that proliferates near the roots of oak trees. Other foragers look for swarms of yellow flies that often can be found dancing in the air over a truffle trove at sunset.

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But taste is another matter. Unlike the rich pungency of the

French version that imparts a lively savor to almost any dish, the Chinese truffle, or *tuber himalayensis*, has little appreciable flavor when fresh — and can even turn unpleasant after a few days.

"If it is not consumed quickly, it becomes nasty and sulfurous, much like an unwanted guest," said Louis Rioussel, a fungologist and renowned truffle connoisseur from Maillane, near St. Rémy-de-Provence.

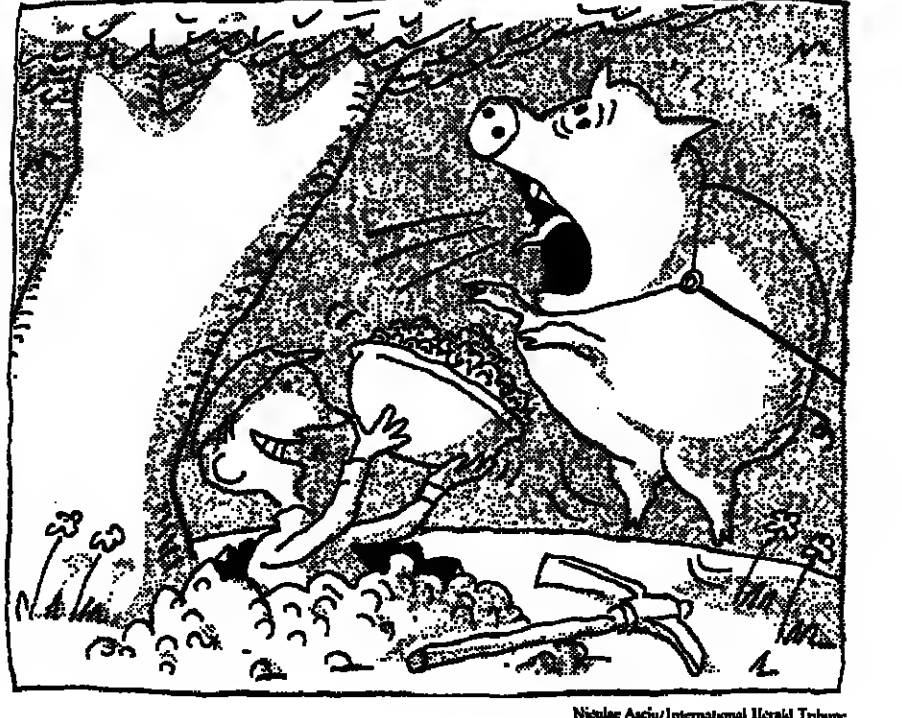
Cheaters, by dousing the Chinese product with truffle-scented oil or bunching them in a box that includes a few fragrant chunks of the French variety, have been able to get away with huge fraud, especially when the truffles are marked up for re-export to such lucrative markets as the United States. The potential for profit is considerable. While French truffles sell for about \$600 a kilogram (\$270 a pound), the Chinese cousin goes for almost \$110 a kilogram.

The vanishing quantities of the French variety have only enhanced the value of the truffle trade. French output has dropped from 800 tons a year at the end of the last century to less than 20 tons today.

"The harvest of the whole country can now be put into one truck," said Pierre-Jean Pebeyre, heir to one of France's greatest truffle dynasties.

Meanwhile, the Chinese have rapidly filled the void. The French federation of truffle producers estimates that since the

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Nicholas Andou/International Herald Tribune

Newstand Prices	
Andorra.....9.00 FF	Luxembourg.....80 L Fr
Antilles.....11.20 FF	Morocco.....12 Dh
Cameroun.....1.400 CFA	Catar.....8.00 Riale
France.....E.P. 5000	Réunion.....11.20 FF
Egypt.....9.00 FF	Saudi Arabia.....9.00 Rl
Gabon.....960 CFA	Senegal.....980 CFA
Greece.....350 Dr.	Spain.....225 PTAS
Italy.....2.600 Lire	Turkiele.....1.000 Dhs
Ivory Coast.....1.120 CFA	Turkey.....T.L. 45,000
Jordan.....1 JD	U.A.E.....250 Dirh
Lebanon.....US\$ 1.50	U.S. M. (Eur.).....\$1.10

THE AMERICAS

Dole Returns to Court New Hampshire Voters

By Richard L. Berke
New York Times Service

KEENE, New Hampshire — The audience that gathered in a library auditorium here for the first town meeting of Senator Bob Dole's presidential bid had barely taken their seats when they made it obvious that they would not go easy on him. The location had been carefully chosen, one of the few parts of the state where Mr.

Dole had run well in the 1988 Republican primary, and his reputation, over all, was warm. Still, the pesky questions came thick and fast, on abortion, legalizing marijuana and school prayer.

The toughest question came from Norman May, 67, a retired school principal: "Are you worried about the age issue? I hate to bring it up because I voted for you the last time. That is going to be a factor and how

are you going to address that?" The 71-year-old majority leader responded with a quip about a 92-year-old Senate colleague: "I'm not worried about it at all. Some people think I'm too young. I've been willing to put Strom Thurmond on the ticket for balance."

The first U.S. presidential primary, in New Hampshire, is not for a year. But a state party dinner that serves as the primary's opening bell brought nine

presidential aspirants to the state. They included three of Mr. Dole's Senate colleagues, Phil Gramm of Texas, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania and Richard G. Lugar of Indiana, as well as Lamar Alexander, a former Tennessee governor, and Patrick J. Buchanan, a television commentator who ran strongly here in 1992.

However far away the actual vote, the senator from Kansas acted as if there were no time to waste. With a smile stuck on his face, he entered the fray with the first full-fledged events of his third attempt for the Republican presidential nomination.

The meeting here and one later in the day in Lebanon were the first of a dozen public appearances he had scheduled over the weekend.

The voters here never make it easy for politicians. Accustomed to groveling from the candidates trying to win over the first people who vote in a primary, they often see themselves as akin to professional jurors who know best who should get the nomination.

Mr. Dole endured the exercise with good reason. Recent history has shown that Republicans who win in New Hampshire usually wind up with their party's nomination, as Mr. Dole learned from his defeat by George Bush here in 1988.

Mr. Dole is far ahead in the early polls in New Hampshire and nationally. But, as he told voters, he was fooled the last time: "All the polls were good. But then, the people voted."

That is why, he said Saturday, that he will be back. "I know that about town meetings," he said. "You don't talk too long if you're the candidate because people want to ask the questions."

And Mr. Dole was ready to be questioned about his age. He said he had endured a round of prostate cancer but feels great.

"I'm on the treadmill every time I'm home, if I get any wife off it," he said. "If you follow me around for a day, I think you'd find that age is not an issue."

Although there was some grumbling by the audience afterward, Mr. Dole managed to finesse the abortion question by saying he was against abortion but that the issue should not divide the party.

"Our strength is in jobs, welfare reform, cutting back the size of government, less regulation for American business," he said. "And that's where we ought to rally."

Mr. Dole did not let his often too-fast-for-his-own-good retorts get the best of him when a woman told him: "I'm addressing the need to at least legalize the hemp plant, which I understand grows quite easily in the state of Kansas."

Rather than let the question engage him, Mr. Dole turned his answer into something about the importance of a workable crime bill. He also managed to sidestep questions about his competition with Mr. Gramm, saying, "I'm not sure the people in New Hampshire want me to get in a fistfight."

Dole Leads Poll With 45%
A poll of New Hampshire voters put Mr. Dole in the lead among Republicans with 45 percent, Senator Gramm and Mr. Buchanan were tied for second with 10 percent each.

Gov. William F. Weld of Massachusetts had 9 percent and Mr. Alexander had 3 percent. Reuters reported Sunday from Manchester, New Hampshire.

Nine Republican presidential hopefuls were in New Hampshire on Sunday to kick off the 1996 race for the White House. The nine responded to an invitation from the New Hampshire Republican Party to address some 1,400 activists on Sunday evening.

POLITICAL NOTES

House Republicans Target Subsidies for School Lunch

WASHINGTON — House Republicans have unveiled a bill that would scrap the national school lunch program and a separate federal program that feeds pregnant women and preschool children, in favor of lump-sum grants to the states. But senior Republicans are balking at a plan by Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, to do the same with food stamps.

The bill, drafted by Republican members of the House Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities, would give states vast new discretion to design their own food programs in place of the school lunch program and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children, known as WIC.

Under the bill, to be considered by the committee this week, children from low-income families would no longer be entitled to school meals subsidized by the federal government, and there would be no uniform national standards for the nutritional content of such meals.

Further, there is no guarantee that the lump-sum payments, or block grants, would increase in hard times, when more people apply for food assistance of all kinds.

The changes, which go far beyond those proposed by President Ronald Reagan, are described in draft legislation obtained from Republican members of Congress.

Republicans said the new proposals would reduce the paperwork for local officials and permit them to feed more people at lower cost. But the plan has set off furious opposition.

Robert Fersht, president of the Food Research and Action Center, said: "A block grant cannot keep up with the real needs of real people. It's almost impossible to devise a formula that responds to changing circumstances like population growth, recession, migration, unemployment and natural disasters." (NYT)

3 Republican Candidates Favor 'Color-Blind' Society

WASHINGTON — Three leading candidates for the Republican presidential nomination said Sunday that ending affirmative action is at the top of their list of goals.

But Jack Kemp, who is out of the 1996 race, said it would be a mistake for the party to abandon programs to help the poor get ahead. Affirmative action already looms as an issue that could dominate the 1996 campaign. Ensuring that it will be on the front burner is a planned

California initiative that would eliminate quotas for contracts or government benefits.

Senator Phil Gramm of Texas, the most conservative of the current contenders, repeated on a CBS television news show that one of his first actions as president would be to "overturn quotas, preferences and set-asides."

"I'm for equal and unlimited opportunity in America, but I'm for special privilege for no one," he said. He denied that the issue is divisive. "I see this as a uniting principle," he said.

Bob Dole of Kansas, the Senate majority leader, also said they would change affirmative action as it is now practiced.

"We need a color-blind society," Mr. Dole said on an ABC television news show.

Mr. Alexander, also on ABC, said he supported the California initiative. "and as president, I would try to translate equal opportunity into individual rights, not group rights." (AP)

Hillary Clinton's New Role

WASHINGTON — Hillary Rodham Clinton is emerging from months of absence from the limelight, offering a glimpse of a new role.

Democratized by critics during the November congressional election, Mrs. Clinton has been uncharacteristically subdued since the Republicans captured Congress.

Aides to Mrs. Clinton have been fending off questions about her future role — unwilling to say just how she will proceed now that she no longer serves as the administration's chief advocate on health care reform issues.

Mrs. Clinton brushes aside thoughts that anything is different, saying: "The stories come and go and I just remain the same."

"I'll do whatever I can to help the president fulfill his vision for the country, work hard for what he believes will help America," she said.

Insiders say she still has the first word when it comes to the president — and that when she talks, he listens. Her public role, however, is evolving. She is beginning to venture onto the public stage again, making it clear in interviews that she intends to continue to be involved in health care matters, but not shaping policy.

"There's a full plate of activities that I care about," she said. (Reuters)

Quote/Unquote

Senator John H. Chafee, Republican of Rhode Island, on the quadrennial outbreak of presidential ambition in the Senate: "They see the president, and as in most things, they say to themselves, 'Hey, I can do that job, and do it better.' It's only crossed the minds of maybe 98 senators." (NYT)

Away From Politics



Myrlie Evers-Williams meeting the press before her election as head of the NAACP.

● The widow of the civil rights leader Medgar Evers has won an upset one-vote victory to become chairman of the scandal-plagued NAACP, the oldest and largest advocate for America's blacks. "We have much to do. We have to clean house. Where is my broom?" Myrlie Evers-Williams, 61, told cheering supporters in Manhattan after defeating William Gibson for the leadership of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. (Reuters)

● After spending months insisting that he was sane and staging a series of bizarre courtroom spectacles, Colin Ferguson has turned to the lawyers he once dismissed to appeal his murder conviction in Minerva, New York, on the grounds that he was never mentally fit to stand trial, one of the lawyers said. His defense of himself included his claim that there were 93 charges against him because the killings occurred in 1993. (NYT)

● Three months after taking an unexpected leave of absence that raised speculation about his health and about the rigors of his job, Neil

L. Rudenstein, 60, the president of Harvard University, has pronounced himself "extremely refreshed, well, vigorous, ready to go," and said that he would return to work on Thursday. (NYT)

● The U.S. murder rate, already described by some as an epidemic, will increase sharply and lead to a "blood bath" within the next decade as the number of teen-agers grows, a researcher says. Murders by children aged 14 to 17 have increased by 165 percent since 1985, said James Alan Fox, dean of the College of Criminal Justice at Northeastern University. That will surge even more as some 40 million children reach their teens, he said. (AP)

● An overwhelming majority of U.S. lawyers, 70 percent, believe O. J. Simpson will not be convicted in his double murder trial, according to an opinion poll for The National Law Journal. Thirty-nine percent of the 301 attorneys surveyed in the United States predict a hung jury, while 31 percent think he will be acquitted, for a total of 70 percent. (Reuters)

Uruguay May Lose Good Life
New President's Plan Would Cut Social BenefitsBy Calvin Sims
New York Times Service

MONTEVIDEO — Uruguay has long enjoyed one of the highest standards of living in Latin America, buttressed by a social security system that allows people to retire earlier than in many other countries.

But if the president-elect, Julio María Sanguinetti, has his way, those days will soon be over.

Mr. Sanguinetti, who takes office on March 1, said in an interview that his first priority would be reforming the social security system, which has become a drain on the budget.

"Our demographics are changing, people are living longer, and we simply cannot afford to maintain the social benefits program as it now exists," he said. Mr. Sanguinetti, who was president from 1985 to 1990, was returned to office in a close election in November.

"I fully expect there to be opposition to our reforms, but sometimes the medicine seems worse than the illness, but in the long term it heals the patient," Mr. Sanguinetti said.

The basic problem is the high ratio of people who depend on or work for the state. About 1.1 million of Uruguay's 3.1 million people are registered workers, while 700,000 people no longer in the work force receive pensions.

That means that Uruguay has more than one retired person for every two workers, and about 37 percent of the state budget goes to the social security system.

Economists and rival political parties agree that reform of the system, which is financed by payroll deductions, cannot be delayed.

A study by the Inter-American Development Bank said that even if Uruguay's gross domestic product grows at a projected 1.7 percent and inflation at 10 percent for the rest of the decade, failure to reform the social security system would mean the deficit will reach 5 percent.

But reaching an agreement on how to reform the system may be Mr. Sanguinetti's greatest

challenge, especially since the legislature is divided almost evenly among three parties.

Mr. Sanguinetti said that while he would "not take away any benefits that people currently enjoy, the system will be reformed for future pensioners." He plans to propose a mixed system of minimal coverage by the state and private voluntary individual savings that would reduce the burden on the government.

Uruguayans have grown accustomed to the benefits system, which allows men to retire at age 60 and women at 55. The government provides disabled workers 70 percent of their salaries and free medical care.

Some Uruguayans are collecting pensions today under laws overturned in the late 1970s, which, for example, allowed a woman with a child to retire after 10 years of work, regardless of age, or a single woman whose father died to receive a pension for life without working, even if she married.

Highly organized retirement associations have vowed to use referendums to block changes to the social security program.

Complicating matters is the factionalized political system, which was further entangled by the split of votes among Uruguay's three major political parties in the last election. The vote ended more than a century of two-party rule.

Since no party has a majority in the legislature, Mr. Sanguinetti of the centrist Colorado Party must negotiate alliances with the unelected rightist National Party and the leftist newcomer, the Broad Front coalition.

President Luis Alberto Lacalle failed to pass welfare and other economic reforms, political analysts say, because he lacked the political skills to negotiate and needlessly alienated Congress.

Mr. Sanguinetti was one of the Mr. Lacalle's staunchest opponents in Congress, and supporters of the departing leader say he may seek revenge by blocking the new president's reforms. While bitter infighting and party rivalry are a way of life, rival party leaders have hinted that they are willing to work with Mr. Sanguinetti, particularly on social security.

Bank Strike in Martinique Drags On

Agence France-Press

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique — A strike for higher wages that has paralyzed much of this island's banking sector and dampened business activity has entered its second month with no clear end in sight.

But the prefect of this French overseas department, Jean-François Cordet, said new talks

were imminent after his latest contacts with the French Bank Association and unions representing bank employees.

Local officials joined Mr. Cordet on Friday in appealing for an end to the strike, while businessmen demonstrated to protest what they described as "the total paralysis" of the island since the strike began Jan. 18.

Mr. Cordet said that he had "taken the necessary steps to avoid any kind of disturbance" and warned that "people should not force me to intervene because we have better things to do."

Strikers marched Friday along the highway between Le Lamentin and Fort-de-France to press demands for a resumption in negotiations.



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ASIA

U.S. Aims to Mend Japan Defense Links

Talks Shift Focus From Trade

By Daniel Williams
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The Clinton administration has embarked on a quiet, intense, year-long round of talks with Japan to rejuvenate U.S. military links with Tokyo, in part to repair hard feelings over President Bill Clinton's heavy focus on trade during the first half of his term. As the administration hammered Japan to open its markets to U.S. goods, intelligence and defense officials became alarmed that the military relationship had been left to languish and that Japan would drift on its own.

That process, if allowed to continue, would raise fears in Asia of Japanese militarization, and in Washington of a loss of key U.S. military bases on the Japanese islands.

"There was a real sense of angst on the Japanese side, a fear that the overarching American focus had become the economy," a senior White House official said. "Our goal, really, is to reassure them we value the alliance."

The concern reached a peak late last fall, when Joseph S. Nye, the new assistant secretary of defense for international security, visited Japan.

Mr. Nye reported on signs that Japan was drifting from close cooperation with Washington and was shifting its economic and security focus toward East Asia, administration officials said.

On his return, Mr. Nye proposed a series of systematic contacts, which began last month with a visit to Tokyo by U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state and defense.

The talks are focusing on cooperation on a wide range of security issues, including possible threats from northeast Asia, particularly North Korea.

The talks, dubbed the "Nye initiative," are designed to address the same kind of post-Cold War identity crisis faced by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization: Why maintain tight defense links if there is no enemy to worry about?

Indications of a change in Japan's view of the U.S. relationship also emerged in a report commissioned by Japan's government in 1994 to outline the country's future security role.

The study affirmed the importance of the U.S. alliance, but also emphasized the need to build autonomous might and engage in multilateral pursuits, such as peacekeeping, as a hedge against a possible reduction in U.S. interest in Japan.

The "hedging" strategy "is a reflection of uncertainty about U.S. intentions and Japanese domestic political developments," warned a report from the National Defense University, written by Michael J. Green and Patrick M. Cronin.

The end to one-party dominance of Japanese politics appeared to open the way for a new debate over Japan's relations with the United States.

The rise of Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama to power, from a Socialist party that traditionally opposes strong U.S. links, created anxiety in Washington, although the Social Democratic Party recently dropped its anti-military, anti-alliance approach.

U.S. officials regarded a guns and butter debate in Japan as threatening Tokyo's \$4 billion financial support for maintaining U.S. bases in the country.

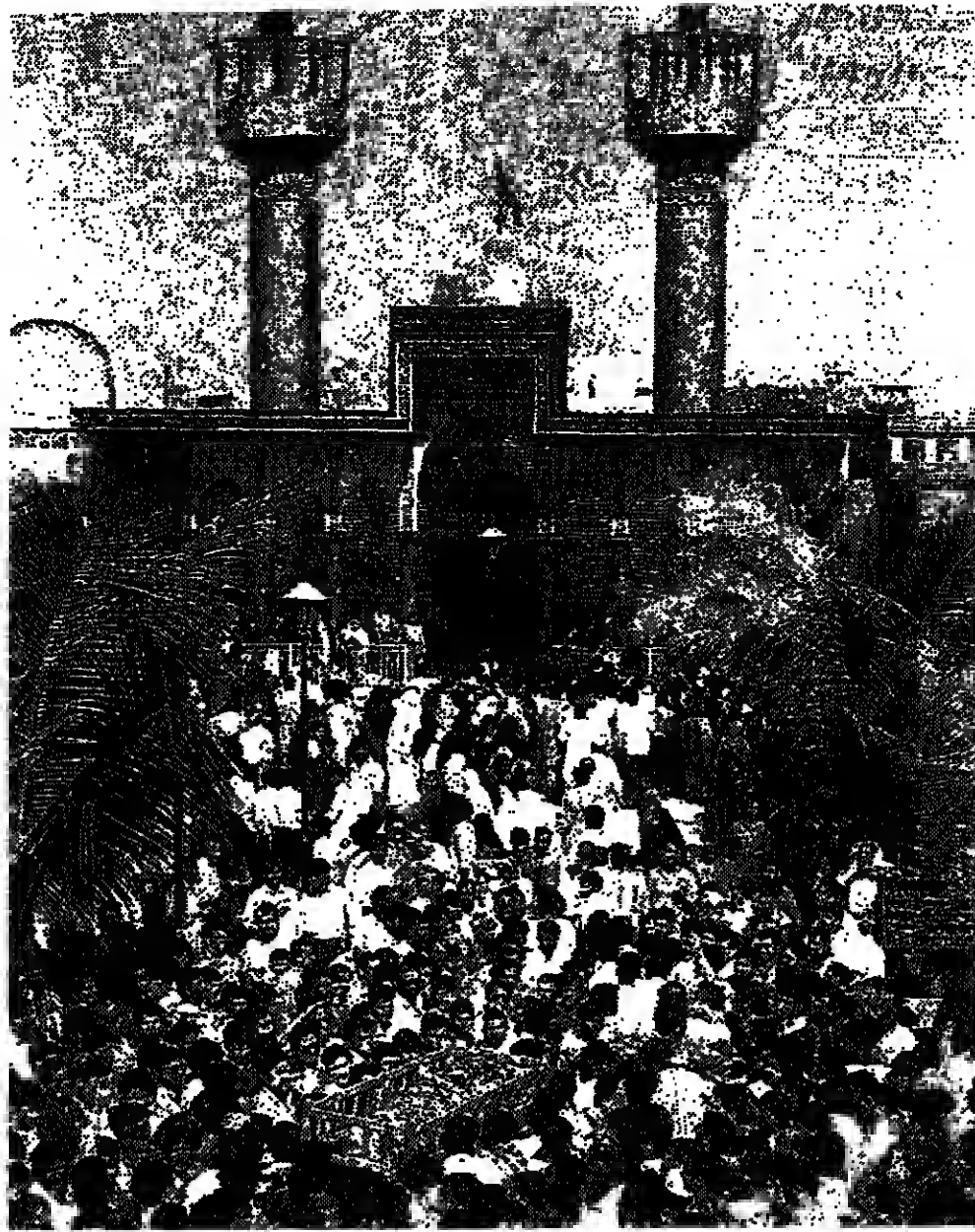
The possibility of war with North Korea over its nuclear arms program "galvanized" Pentagon worries, a defense official said. If the Americans used bases and ports in Japan to stage a war on the Korean peninsula, how would the Japanese public react? What would be Japan's role, other than to host U.S. troops?

Mr. Nye proposed talks on bilateral, regional and global cooperation to clear up doubts. To interagency meetings, none objected. "The economic boys had become fatigued and didn't put up a fight," a State Department official said.

Mr. Nye is scheduled to lay out the basis for the contacts in a speech at Harvard University on Tuesday.

U.S. officials are shy about discussing details of the initiative. The administration worries that the talks could further inflame the debate in Japan, particularly in the 50th anniversary year of the atomic attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki and the end of the Pacific war.

Unlike commemorations of the victory over Germany, where Mr. Clinton thinks nothing of stopping at battlefields to bathe in past American glories, the Pacific war against Japan is treated gingerly.



Mourners carrying coffins on Sunday of recent victims of Karachi's sectarian violence.

One Dead In Attack On Mosque In Karachi

Agence France-Presse

KARACHI, Pakistan — Violence continued in Karachi, commercial capital of Pakistan, as gunmen attacked a mosque shortly after dawn prayers on Sunday, killing one and injuring four, officials said.

The attack was apparently in retaliation for the slaying of four brothers in their home on Saturday by sectarian activists. All four brothers, one of whom was a police officer, were bound and shot, and then shot to death.

The militant Shiite Muslim group, Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan, described the four brothers as sympathizers.

The family of the victims accused eight members of the rival Sunni Muslim Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan of the murder.

The death toll since Saturday morning rose to 11 as two people injured earlier in the week died in the hospital.

The police also discovered two bodies on the outskirts of the city late Saturday. Both unidentified victims had been tied up, tortured and shot.

A doctor was shot to death at his clinic in the city's troubled central district on Saturday. All the other victims were killed in isolated incidents, at least one of whom was identified as a Sunni Muslim activist.

More than 95 people have died in political and sectarian violence this month. Observers say February could be the bloodiest month in Karachi's recent history.

More than 700 people were killed in political and sectarian violence last year, 168 of whom died in December.

On Saturday, Pakistani police seized caches of weapons and ammunition as well as 5,000 rounds of ammunition in a sweep through the central district, officials said.

Several Kalashnikov rifles and handguns were impounded by a joint police and paramilitary task force in a five-hour house-to-house search.

Nineteen people were detained for questioning.

Philippine Leader Warns 'Intruders' In Spratly Islands

The Associated Press

MANILA — In a clear reference to Chinese expansion in the disputed Spratly Islands, President Fidel V. Ramos promised Sunday to defend the sovereignty of the Philippines and urged foreign "intruders" to leave the country in peace.

"As your commander-in-chief, I will not allow any slackening in our defense capabilities and responsibilities," Mr. Ramos told alumni of the Philippine Military Academy.

"If there be any intruders into our territory or exclusive economic zone, we shall ask them to depart and leave us in peace."

Mr. Ramos ordered additional military forces to the Spratly Islands last week.

Philippine officials assert that the Chinese have built a platform on the previously unoccupied Panganiban atoll and that Chinese forces detained Filipino fishermen briefly last month.

Q & A: East Timor's Peace Proposals

Indonesia's rule in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony annexed by Jakarta after Indonesian forces invaded 20 years ago, continues to face challenges. José Ramos Horta, the special representative of a council that links East Timorese groups opposed to Indonesian control, discussed the situation with Michael Richardson of the International Herald Tribune.

Q: The United Nations Commission on Human Rights is due to resume its annual debate in Geneva on Wednesday on human rights violations in East Timor and other places. Can such debate influence Indonesia's East Timor policy?

A: It does because Jakarta has an honorable way out through a three-phase peace plan. In the first phase, lasting for about two years, Indonesia must withdraw all its troops from East Timor, release all prisoners and allow the UN to establish a human-rights monitoring presence.

In the second phase, East Timor would get full autonomy with a local assembly chosen in elections organized by the UN. This phase would last for five years and could be extended for another five years. It would give Indonesia ample time to prove to the people of East Timor that its behavior had changed.

The status of the territory would only be decided at the end of the autonomy period. That would provide Indonesia and ourselves sufficient time to find a

modus vivendi in which Indonesian interests would be protected. However, the end result of the whole process would have to be a self-determination referendum under UN supervision.

Q: What is Indonesia's response to this proposal?

A: So far, outright rejection. But I know that there is growing sympathy within Indonesia for this kind of approach. There is also increasing support in the UN and from the U.S. and European Union.

Q: If Indonesia continues to reject the peace plan you have put forward, what strategy will your group pursue to get Jakarta to become more flexible?

A: We will continue to extend an olive branch to Indonesia. At the same time, we will pursue aggressively our international campaign to increase the costs to Indonesia. In East Timor itself, our people are determined to escalate their actions to make Indonesia's occupation of the territory more costly.

Q: Wouldn't that amount to terrorism?

A: No, we are talking about civil disobedience and street demonstrations. However, armed resistance by our guerrillas will continue against the Indonesian military occupation. But Indonesian civilians and their property will not be targeted.

Vietnam's Sapphire Fever Sets Off Cycle of Violence

Agence France-Presse

HANOI — Nearly 10,000 people have rushed to the central highlands of Vietnam this month in search of sapphires, the Vietnam News Agency reported.

The treasure hunt has unleashed gangland killings, prostitution, gambling and corrup-

tion in the area, as well as the destruction of hundreds of acres of forest, the report said.

The prospectors have been digging into underground caves for the stones, and three people were killed when one mine collapsed, the report said.

The sapphire fever grew on a rumor that the gems had been

discovered near a stream in an area well known to diggers.

About a hundred prospectors have been pouring daily into Truong Xuan, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Ban Me Thuot, in the hope of making their fortune.

They have seriously disrupted local agriculture and led to a

sharp rise in food prices, the agency said.

The illegal mining of sapphires there is costing the government \$15,000 a day.

The rush for gold and precious stones is commonplace in Vietnam, where the entire population of villages takes off at rumors of treasure.

BRIEFLY ASIA

Taiwan Sets First Presidential Vote

TAIPEI (Reuters) — Taiwan's cabinet has decided in principle to hold its first direct presidential election, to March 1996, capping a process of democratic reform started in 1987. Voting for the National Assembly, which currently chooses Taiwan's presidents, would be held simultaneously with the presidential election, the CNA news agency said.

President Lee Teng-bui of the Nationalist Party has not said if he will run. Lin Yang-kang, a senior adviser to the president and also a Nationalist Party member, has announced his own candidacy. Taiwan's leading opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party, has not decided on its presidential candidate.

4 Killed in India Election Violence

IMPHAL, India (Reuters) — Four people were killed and at least 17 were wounded Sunday in election violence in Manipur State in northeast India, officials said. The police blamed the People's Liberation Army, a separatist militia dominated by ethnic Meitei, which had threatened to disrupt the polling.

The election was contested mainly between the Congress (I) Party of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and the regional Manipur People's Party. Official results are expected Thursday.

Attorney Fears for Pakistani Boy

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A 14-year-old Christian boy sentenced to hang for insulting Islam could face threats to his life in jail, his lawyer said Sunday.

"I am very, very apprehensive," the attorney, Hina Jilani, said. "That's why we want to get this trial over as soon as possible. His safety is a real source of tension."

Mr. Jilani said that an inmate accused of blasphemy was killed a year ago in the same cell block where the youth has been jailed since he was convicted Feb. 9, along with his uncle, for writing anti-Islamic graffiti on a mosque wall in 1993.

China Condemns 4 in Tax Swindle

BEIJING (Reuters) — A court in Shenzhen in southern China has sentenced four people to death for peddling thousands of fake tax receipts for use by tax evaders, news reports said.

The faking of tax invoices and other receipts has become one of China's most serious forms of corruption.



SACKS OF WAGES — Cambodian women in Siem Reap Province with bags of rice that they and other villagers received for working on community projects under a program run by the UN and the Red Cross.

VOICES From Asia

Clementino dos Reis Amaral, a member of Indonesia's human rights commission, which has urged the government to improve the handling of information out of the former Portuguese colony of East Timor to counter criticism about rights abuses: "While many reports on human rights violations in the youngest Indonesian province have been received, it is not yet time for the commission to open an office there." (Reuters)

Megat Jusid Megat Ayub, deputy home minister of Malaysia, on a warning that three local papers may be banned unless they stop printing stories that affect racial harmony or relations with neighboring nations: "I advised them to be careful since national peace and harmony depends on racial and religious unity and ties with our neighbors." (Reuters)

Tofayel Ahmed, a leader of the main Bangladeshi opposition party, the Awami League, on the government's latest offer for a dialogue to end a controversy over future elections: "There cannot be any dialogue until Parliament is dissolved, the prime minister resigns and the government agrees to hold fresh elections." (Reuters)

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INTERNATIONAL

Egypt's Warning to Israelis

Cairo Demands Restraints on Nuclear Arms

By Youssef M. Ibrahim
New York Times Service

PARIS — Foreign Minister Amr Moussa of Egypt said Sunday that the relative serenity that characterized Egyptian-Israeli relations over the past 15 years has been disturbed by "serious difficulties" over Israel's nuclear weapons program and the "fragile and vulnerable" state of Middle East peace talks.

In an interview in Paris, Mr. Moussa argued that Egypt and other Arab countries will insist Israel accept restraints on its nuclear arms program because of Arab concerns that Israeli "extremists" could gain power to the government and be tempted to use such weapons against enemies in the region.

Israeli officials said Sunday that they had offered to allow Egypt to inspect a nuclear research facility and were considering another gesture to assuage Egyptian concerns. The Associated Press reported. The officials said the nature of the gesture had not been decided but that it might include a proposal to set up a dialogue between

Egyptian and Israeli nuclear scientists.

Mr. Moussa was in Paris for a meeting Saturday with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres of Israel and Yasser Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Their talks failed to move the stalled peace process.

Mr. Moussa's remarks came at the end of a tense week during which he was accused by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin of leading a hostile campaign to embarrass Israel over its refusal to join a global nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Israel has also charged President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt with slowing its normalization of ties with other Arab nations and lining them up behind Egypt's position on the arms treaty.

The United States, which supports the Israeli stand that its acquisition of nuclear weapons is an issue separate from the signing of the nonproliferation treaty, has hinted it may penalize Egypt by reducing \$2 billion in annual aid in loans and grants.

Mr. Moussa, however, said the pressure would not dissuade

Cairo from insisting that Israel provide "concrete" assurances that it will address Arab concerns.

"We are called upon to vote on the universality of a treaty and its eternity," Mr. Moussa said. "We are told, however, that universality does not apply to Israel. How can a country in its right mind accept an eternal commitment of this sort with its neighbor being allowed to retain and develop nuclear arms?"

"Israel seems to have an attitude of calling anyone who disagrees with her policies an enemy," he said. "This is a relic of the past that must yield to listening to legitimate Arab concerns. We hope they come to see our interest in regional security, and the advancement of Palestinian-Israeli talks, to be just as important as their concern for economic cooperation and greater normalization."

The anti-Egyptian statements last week by the Israelis came at a time that many experts in Middle East affairs consider to be the lowest point in relations between the two countries since they signed a peace treaty in 1979.



Yasser Arafat, left, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur of France, center, and Shimon Peres following a conference on Middle East peace held in Paris.

But the Egyptian-Israeli dispute over nuclear weapons has taken center stage in the past few weeks, particularly after a number of Arab countries said they supported Cairo's views. The moves threatened to deal a blow to U.S. hopes that a majority of countries renew their commitments to the nonproliferation treaty.

Israel is believed by various Western intelligence services to

have some 200 nuclear warheads. Although it has never acknowledged that officially, it has argued that it faces potential nuclear threats from Iran, Iraq and Libya, who are said to be at various stages of developing such technology.

Mr. Moussa insisted that Cairo "will not compromise on its view that Israel must respond to our security concern."

He said that if Israel did not join the nuclear nonproliferation program, "the region is certain to slip into an arms race which, to our way of thinking, would be a catastrophic development."

Asked what steps he had in mind for Israel to take, Mr. Moussa said: "Israel must become engaged in a serious process of disarmament that would deal with the nuclear problem

and arms of mass destruction in the Mideast region."

The adamant Egyptian stand has puzzled Mideast experts because the issue of Israel's nuclear weapons had not been raised in recent years and because the consequences of American anger over its position could result in heavy economic penalties for the hard-pressed Egyptian economy.

But several Egyptian policymakers have said privately they felt that Egypt needed to reassert its influence in the Arab world, which they charge has been deliberately eroded by Israel and the United States.

They also noted a growing conviction in Egypt that U.S. aid was going to be reduced anyway, since Washington seemed intent upon downgrading its ties to Cairo.

Israel Opens Border To 900 Palestinians, First Since Bombing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

GAZA — Israel on Sunday let in 900 Palestinian workers, the first since it shut off movement from the West Bank and Gaza Strip following an Arab suicide attack in Israel last month.

An army spokeswoman said that nearly 900 Palestinian workers had entered Israel via Gaza's main Erez checkpoint.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin announced last week that Israel would begin lifting the ban this week, and he urged Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, to do more to crack down on Islamic militants who attack Israelis.

Mr. Rabin said he would let in 10,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip and 5,000 from the West Bank. But officials on both sides said it would take time for all of the required permits to be issued.

Israel said all 15,000 of those to be allowed entry had to be both married and over 30, a group that Israel believes poses a lower security risk.

The 15,000 represent only a quarter of the 60,000 Palestinians barred from their jobs since two Islamic suicide bombers from Gaza killed 21 Israelis

at a bus stop in central Israel on Jan. 22.

On Sunday, Israeli soldiers shot and killed a Palestinian teenager in Gaza.

Military sources said the youth was a motorist who had ignored an army order to stop in an Israeli-held zone. But Palestinians said he was shot while searching on foot for scrap metal and wood.

Israelis have killed 207 Palestinians, and Palestinians have killed 113 Israelis since the signing of an Israeli-PLO peace accord in Washington in September 1993.

In another development, Israel's cabinet approved the expansion of three settlements around Jerusalem.

A spokesman for PLO headquarters in East Jerusalem said the construction violated the Palestinian autonomy accord.

"They are putting the whole peace process in jeopardy," said the spokesman, Hatem Abdul Qader.

At issue was a Housing Ministry plan initially approved in January that four ministers from the liberal Meretz party were appealing.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said the program involved a total of 1,800 housing units in three West Bank settlements. (Reuters, AP)

Canada Moves to Ban Easily Hidden Guns

New York Times Service

TORONTO — Reacting to increasing urban violence, the Canadian government has moved to strengthen gun laws by proposing mandatory registration of all firearms and a ban on small, easily concealed handguns known as Saturday night specials.

Under the legislation, introduced in Parliament last week by the governing Liberal Party, possession of an unregistered weapon could mean a prison sentence of up to five years.

The bill has met with unusually fierce opposition from gun owners, and the issue has pitted rural lawmakers against urban representatives.

The Firearms Act, however, is likely to become law because of the Liberals' majority in the lower house of Parliament.

Gun control laws are far

tougher in Canada than in the United States. Registration of handguns, for example, has been required since 1954.

Canada has banned fully automatic assault weapons since 1978 and semiautomatic weapons capable of being fired on automatic since 1991. Last fall, after a fierce congressional battle, the United States banned 19 types of semiautomatic firearms.

A rise in urban violence, largely drug-related, has increased a sense of personal insecurity for many Canadians, a key element in the government's decision to get tougher on gun control.

The government is worried that the increase in violence could prompt Canadians to take up arms in self-defense, following the example of many Americans.

Ex-Leader of Labor Party Had KGB Ties, Paper Says

New York Times Service

LONDON — A British newspaper reported Sunday that Michael Foot, the leader of the opposition Labor Party in the early 1980s, met with Soviet agents during the 1960s and accepted cash payments for a leftist newspaper he ran.

The paper, The Sunday Times, said the Soviet intelligence service considered Mr. Foot, who is now 81 and retired from active politics, to be one of its "agents of influence" in Britain at the time.

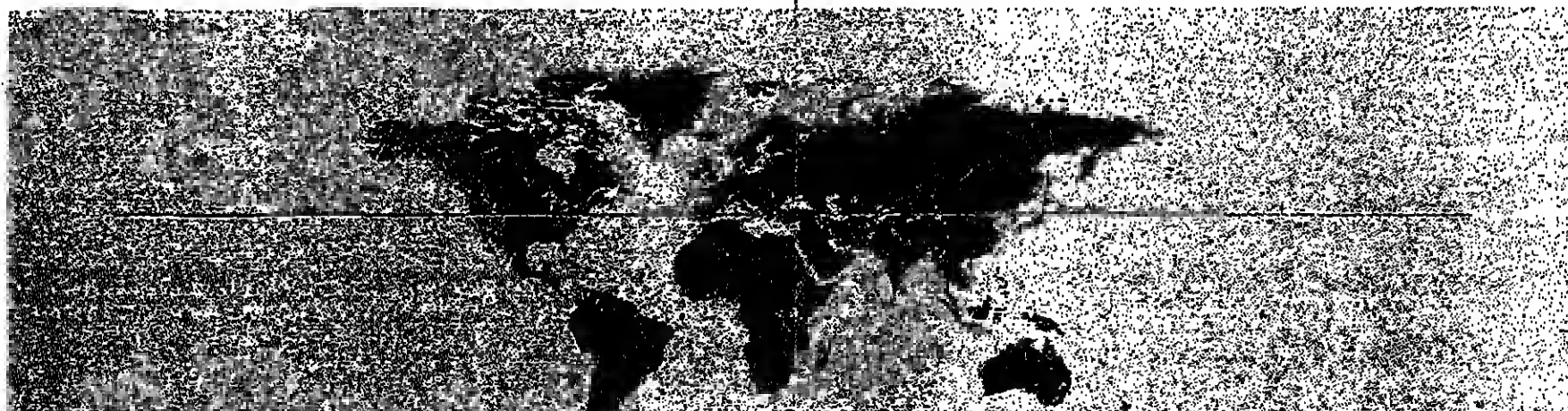
The paper said its information came from former KGB officers, including Oleg Gordievsky, a colonel in the Soviet intelligence agency who defected to Britain in 1985.

The report said the contacts took place between 1960 and 1968 and were believed to have been broken off by Mr. Foot following the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Mr. Foot was a member of Parliament at the time.

The Sunday Times said British security forces emphasized that Mr. Foot had done nothing illegal.

Mr. Foot said he was not a KGB agent. He did not deny meeting with Soviet officials during the early 1960s, but said any such meetings were part of his regular contacts with officials from all over the world and did not involve passing sensitive information.

Turkey is not the center of the world ...It's just located there.



One look at the map confirms an historical truth: Turkey occupies a crucial place at the junction of Europe and Asia. At the hub of the Mediterranean and the Black Sea. Now, as in the past, Turkey is right at the center of the world's greatest trade routes.

But Turkey has more than geographical access to offer. A nation of plenty, Turkey is home to industry and agriculture, commerce and services. The skilled workforce is highly entrepreneurial in spirit. The ethnically and culturally diverse population of 61 million is young and open to change. Sophisticated telecommunications networks ensure instantaneous connections with the rest of the world. New motorways traverse the country and air links to 84 domestic and international destinations make travelling a snap.

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So if you are keen to expand your international business, isn't it time you found out what so many already know: Turkey is the key place to be.

TURKEY

THE KEY

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Toward Peace in the Jungle

Peru and Ecuador have signed a peace accord, apparently ending their three-week war over a 75-kilometer stretch of border. The squabble cost at least 49 lives and gained little or nothing for either side, but some good may result if the two countries finally resolve the dispute that has caused tension and occasional battles for more than 50 years.

In 1942, following a war in which Peru grabbed a substantial chunk of Ecuador's territory, the two countries signed a treaty that delineated their border. But the agreement was not precise about those 75 kilometers, which parallel a mountain range called the Cordillera del Condor. Ecuador rejected the treaty in 1960. The two countries have clashed over the disputed stretch ever since, including a two-day military battle in 1981.

Recently, Ecuador had been taking advantage of the treaty's ambiguity by building permanent structures on territory claimed by Peru. President Alberto Fujimori of Peru, facing an election this spring and eager to ingratiate himself with the military, was no doubt happy to have a pretext to flex some muscle.

The agreement calls for both sides to withdraw from the conflict zone and allows for international military observers to monitor the peace. But already some politicians in Ecuador are criticizing the pact. To avoid further conflicts, the two countries need to agree to submit their dispute to binding international mediation. Each side already has paid too high a price for a remote patch of jungle and a scrap of national pride.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

How to Brew a Policy Mess

"That's another fine mess you've gotten me into, Stanley." Those thoughts of Oliver Hardy could well express President Bill Clinton's sentiments toward his foreign policy team as he contemplates what promises in an enormously difficult fight with the chairman of the Senate foreign relations committee, Jesse Helms. The North Carolina senator has produced a plan to merge the government's major foreign policy agencies. At first glance, the coming merger fight would appear to be another turf war between a president and Congress of opposing parties. There is, however, more on the table than that.

Despite its billing, the Helms reorganization proposal, which has strong backing among the Republican leadership, is not aimed toward delivering more effective overseas assistance. It is a weapon to be used in the Republican assault on major elements of Mr. Clinton's foreign policy. Already facing a full fight card on Capitol Hill, the president has been pushed by his foreign policy team for a high-stakes battle with Mr. Helms and the Republicans over control and future levels of a broad category of foreign assistance programs. It is a fight the administration's foreign policy team, absorbed in its own intramural turf wars, seems unprepared to wage.

Mr. Helms suggests that his plan is a State Department progeny that over made it past the White House. True, to a point. The Helms proposal follows the contours of a merger proposal that originated with the State Department. But his plan does more than consolidate overseas agencies under the State Department. It strikes at the heart of development assistance programs by eliminating the

Agency for International Development. Mr. Helms also is correct that the State Department's proposal over made it to the Hill. That is because the other foreign affairs agencies, apologetic at the thought of being merged into the State Department, won the support of Vice President Al Gore, who shot down the plan.

But Mr. Helms is off-base if he believes that his declaration of support for the State Department's power grab is a victory for Foggy Bottom. What the State Department might gain in turf, the world's neediest would lose big-time. The shame is that while Clinton foreign affairs officials were distracted by their own skirmishing, a serious threat to the president's foreign policy was materializing in the Republican Congress — and they were preparing either themselves nor Mr. Clinton for what is coming.

Along with Mr. Helms's plan, a Senate hodgepodge committee draft report has emerged that proposes to eviscerate a range of programs that have kept America constructively engaged with the rest of the world. In addition to killing the separate Agency for International Development and Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, it would terminate support for multilateral development banks. The Voice of America would be effectively stillborn. Aid to emerging democracies would be phased out. The Republican-controlled Congress would have America turn its back on the developing world.

There is a fine mess brewing on Capitol Hill. In relation to Mr. Clinton's foreign policy, it is a lot more than interoffice politics and no laughing matter.

—THE WASHINGTON POST

Chipping Away at Justice

President Bill Clinton has promised to use his first veto if the Senate, like the House, passes a crime bill that dismantles last year's law to help put 100,000 police officers on the streets. But other crime bills that the Republicans approved last week are at least as dangerous to justice.

The misnamed "Exclusionary Rule Reform Act" would constitute a congressional assault on the Fourth Amendment's safeguard against unlawful searches and seizures. Like the rest of the crime legislation flowing from the "Contract With America," the measure was dispatched to the floor without adequate committee hearings, test anything slow the 100-day Republican legislative express.

Since 1914, when the Supreme Court said the constitution required it, federal courts have suppressed illegally obtained evidence. Sometimes this lets a guilty defendant go free, but law officers have refined their searches — and the high court has carved out major exceptions to the suppression rule. In 1984 the Supreme Court recognized a "good faith" exception that allowed the admission of evidence seized under a defective warrant that the police had reason to believe was valid. The House now extends that exception to warrantless searches.

Republican leaders said that the police needed this exception, but when pressed could cite no case where the bill would have made a difference to law enforcement. It only succeeds in putting the House in conflict with the Bill of Rights.

The "Violent Criminal Incentive Act" throws technicalities in the way of prisoners who file, ignorantly or inartfully, court complaints about prison conditions. Sponsors contend that the bill is aimed at frivolous lawsuits. But such suits are routinely dismissed by experienced judges, and the bill would require dismissal of many valid claims.

Another unjust bill all but abolishes habeas corpus petitions, long authorized by Congress to let inmates challenge the legality of their detention in the federal courts. An inmate could prevail only if his sentence had been based on an utterly "arbitrary and unreasonable" state court interpretation of clear Supreme Court precedent. That is a radical departure from the proper standards of federalism, by which state courts are bound to recognize the rights prisoners have under the constitution and federal law. Like the rest of these destructive bills, it deserves repudiation by the Senate.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

Other Comment

Put Latin American Unity First

In an era of global capital markets and regional trade blocs, Latin America's leaders need more urgently than ever to set aside their neighborly squabbles and act with unity if the region is to punch its weight in the world. That means dealing swiftly with the most inflammatory of the quarrels that still periodically divide them: half a dozen disputed borders, ranging from Belize to Bolivia. Like Ecuador's claim to the Cordillera mountains, many of these disputes date from lost wars of the past. However unjust they may seem to the losers, they are not worth fighting about.

In an ideal world, Ecuador and Peru

might agree to cede the area on both sides of the Cordillera as a demilitarized reserve for the jungle Indians who are its main inhabitants. But short of that, Ecuador would do well to agree that the Cordillera border should finally be fixed, under international supervision. And at their next get-together, Latin America's leaders would be wise to commit themselves in accepting as permanent their countries' existing borders. That way they would devote more effort to plowing the common furrows of regional trade and infrastructure development that offer a better return for their people.

—THE ECONOMIST (London)

End Sanctions on Serbia? Desperate Diplomacy at Work

By Jim Hoagland

WASHINGTON — Is there no boop through which the Clinton administration will not jump, oo line it will not aha-doo, to keep the war in Bosnia from spreading? That is the question raised by the latest turn in America's desperate diplomacy in the Balkans.

The U.S. diplomatic approach toward Serbia now seems to boil down to a single question: "How high, Slobodan?" The answer from Serbia's Slobodan Milosevic is constant: "Higher."

The United States and four European partners in the Contact Group on Bosnia unveiled a new negotiating plan last week that offers to suspend all economic sanctions against Serbia in return for another round of doubtful promises by the Serbs to stop its wars of aggression in Bosnia and Croatia.

This approach is painted by its advocates as a necessary, expedient adjustment in policy to avoid even greater bloodshed. But such diplomacy is bad leadership and questionable morality. The long-term costs to America's position in world affairs and to its self-image must now be weighed in the balance against the dwindling hopes that new concessions can head off new war in the Balkans.

Writing about Bosnia, Eugene Rostow noted that one force "sustains all law: moral revulsion." To bargain away sanctions — the one clear action taken to mobilize international revulsion against the Serbs — in an effort to contain the horrors of Bosnia to Bosnia is an affront to the concept of international law and justice.

This is a bleak moment for the U.S. State Department. "You ask yourself if it can get any worse in Bosnia and then yes, it does get worse," Secretary of State Warren Christopher said candidly in

our recent conversation. "The options are diminishing."

Croatia's demand that the United Nations withdraw its peacekeepers by the end of March — a demand "they seem determined to carry out," Mr. Christopher says — is a turning point for international diplomacy on Bosnia that for the past three years has never been glorious but has often been defensible in its own terms.

It no longer is. In offering to suspend all economic sanctions against Serbia to protect the status quo on the ground, the administration risks crossing a line that separates expediency from dishonor.

This is not to dispute that the situation becomes much more tenuous and dangerous with the Croatian threat. The Pentagon and State Department have asked President Bill Clinton to extend the pledge he made in December to help UN peacekeepers evacuate Bosnia to include Croatia as well. U.S. ground troops could be engaged in covering a difficult strategic retreat in the Balkans in a matter of weeks if the diplomatic effort now under way fails.

Until now, the major powers and the United Nations justified their failure to intervene and stop the carnage and ethnic cleansing in Bosnia by saying they had at least prevented things from getting worse. They had "contained" the war.

Croatia is poised to snatch away that last fig leaf of honor by resuming its war with Serbia when the peacekeepers leave. To head that off, the U.S. administration has joined Britain, France, Germany and Russia in offering to lift sanctions against Serbia in return for Belgrade's recognition and policing of its

borders with Bosnia and Croatia.

The Serbs have shown little interest in a deal that would also have to be approved by Croatia, which would have to agree to keep the United Nations in place and accept an extended cease-fire that would leave Serbs in control of 25 percent of Croatia and 70 percent of Bosnia.

U.S. officials acknowledge this is desperate diplomacy. Mr. Christopher and the national security adviser, Anthony Lake, went along reluctantly with offering the Serbs the sanctions-lifting initiative under pressure from the Europeans and only after getting

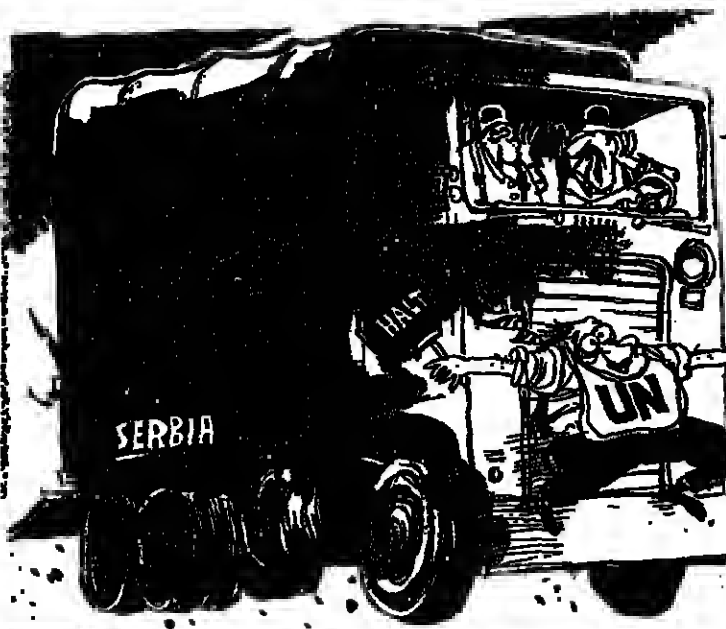
a green light from the Bosnian government. France argues that the sanctions offer could clear the way for a Balkans peace conference proposed by Paris. If that turns out to be a miscalculation, the intangible costs for America and its allies will be enormous.

Bosnia has produced bitter arguments in America and Europe about fundamental issues: justice, honor, responsibility. Governments responded by emphasizing the dangers of intervention, the good that humanitarian relief was doing and the success of containment. Those arguments added up to powerful reasons for America and its allies not taking sides in the conflict in any meaningful way.

But the containment policy is unraveling. The Serbian manipulation of humanitarian aid for its war aims has become transparent. The willingness now to bargain sanctions away for small Serbian commitments undermines the international cooperation needed to keep Mr. Milosevic isolated.

The sanctions offer cuts away the halfway ground on which America has balanced in Bosnia. Soon Washington will have to get in deeper, on the side of the governments of Sarajevo and Zagreb, or get out completely and accept the terrible consequences of not choosing sides in a war of aggression on the European continent.

The Washington Post



By GABLE to the Globe and Mail (Toronto). CAW Syndicate.

The Drive-By Republicans Take a Cheap Shot at the Peacekeepers

By Thomas L. Friedman

WASHINGTON — Reading the Republican foreign policy bill that passed the House last week, I realized that on domestic policy the Republicans have a vision and on foreign policy they have graffiti. Republicans backing this bill, which is the foreign policy component of the "Contract With America," don't need to pass a law to get their point across. All they need is spray paint and a blank wall of the United Nations so they can scrawl what's on their minds: "Get Lost World. Newt Was Here."

This bill is typical of the quality of Republican foreign policy thinking today. It is drive-by foreign policy. Shout whatever's on your mind as you drive by the White House and then hit the gas before you have to deal with the implications.

The reason the Republicans have a foreign policy of one-liners is because they are deeply conflicted. They want to use foreign policy the way they always used it during the Cold War: to assert that they are the party of strength, not the Democrats.

But they also want to appeal to the isolationist impulses in the country, so they don't want to pay for that strength with money or

commitments. The result is the sort of muddled-headed thinking of Representative Dana Rohrabacher of California, who insisted that the foreign policy bill was "not about isolationism" but "about America comes-first policies." Oh, now I understand.

The House Republican bill called for increasing military spending on "star wars" anti-missile defenses (this part was thankfully defeated) so the United States would have more useless Nintendo technology to fight the least likely of wars, while restricting the president's ability to dispatch troops abroad to fight the most likely of wars, while cutting aid to the United Nations so that peacekeepers from other countries won't have the funding to deal with the wars America doesn't want to fight, while ensuring that America will have to deal with all those messy wars alone because the bill forbids U.S. troops from being put under any foreign command.

While they were at it, the Republicans also extended NATO membership to Po-

land, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic, but forgot to mention that this means committing U.S. troops to defend all of them as well.

Connect those dots and you have the Republican foreign policy.

The House Republicans don't seem to have noticed that today's United Nations is not the United Nations of the 1970s, when the Soviets and their pals could pass a resolution that the world was flat. Today, the United Nations is us. We thoroughly dominate it. It blesses what we want blessed, like Haiti, and it condemns whom we want condemned, like the Libyans.

The problem with the United Nations today is not that it is too strong, but that it is too weak. It lacks the resources and management to do the dirty jobs that we want done but don't want to do ourselves.

Now is not the time to weaken it further. If the Republicans are saying that the United Nations should be better managed, I couldn't agree more; but if they are saying that it is useless and America should put it further, they will rue the day.

The Clinton administration contributed

to this confusion. One reason the United Nations has been so discredited is because Clinton officials often used it as a scapegoat. When their Somalia policy went over a cliff, they blamed the United Nations, even though all the controversial military operations in Somalia were directed exclusively by the Pentagon. Still, Clinton officials hid behind excuses: "The UN made me do it."

The Clinton team is compounding the confusion thanks to the love-in that Secretary of State Warren Christopher is conducting with Jesse Helms, head of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. A day doesn't go by without reading about how Chris and Jesse are getting along so well. This does not warm my heart.

Chris, wake up! Jesse is using you to legitimize his plans to end foreign aid and development assistance. You think you can appease him and save yourself grief. You can't, and you shouldn't. Jesse is a mean-spirited isolationist. By cozying up with him you are blurring the differences between him and the internationalists. This is a time for drawing lines, not fudging them.

The New York Times

Japan: Fresh Thinking About the Past and Future Is Long Overdue

By Roger Buckley

TOKYO — The best tonic for Japan a month after the great Kobe earthquake is to avoid feeling sorry for itself and to search instead for a new foreign policy compass.

There is an understandable temptation for the country to close its mental borders and worry only about domestic reconstruction. But it is vital that Japan start both to look backwards to the unpleasant realities of its behavior toward fellow Asians before and during the Pacific War that ended 50 years ago, and to wake up to the new challenges of the post-Cold War era.

Only by confronting the bar-

barism of the past head-on, as Germany did, and by dealing with future responsibilities will Japan escape from the insularity and narrow economics that have shaped its extraordinary postwar rise to become a trading and financial superpower.

It is immensely difficult for a society that is still deeply divided over how to evaluate its wartime record to swallow foreign prescriptions on the urgency of Japan becoming a world leader once again.

A recent attempt by Robert McNamara, a former U.S. defense secretary and head of the World

Bank, to stimulate some fresh thinking in the Japanese establishment drew a cautious response from a large audience in Tokyo. Mr. McNamara's eminently sensible suggestion that Japan approach the post-Cold War world as an opportunity rather than a tiresome burden imposed by outsiders earned him no more than the polite applause accorded to all international guests.

Mr. McNamara listed five great powers as the architects of the new multipolar world: China, the European Union, Japan, Russia and the United States. He put

India as the next contender for membership in this select club. Mr. McNamara's vision of a world based on the rule of law where "national security would be supported by a system of collective security" is anodyne to North Americans and Europeans. But such a prescription causes consternation in Tokyo.

Any reference to the United Nations as more than a talking shop for diplomats and foreign ministers sets off alarm bells throughout the Japanese government and media. The contradiction between Japan campaigning for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council and the unlikelihood of any Japanese cabinet being prepared to commit troops ready, if necessary, to fight in major trouble spots around the globe on UN peacekeeping or peacemaking missions remains as unresolved as ever.

The image of contemporary Japan as a state that pays the bills but keeps a safe distance from the armed conflicts of the late 20th century is fated to persist. Mr. McNamara warns: "Japan can no longer simply rely on the U.S. to protect its national interests. While such a role was appropriate in the bipolar world, that time has long passed." But this is hardly how the Japanese public view foreign

affairs. Their sense of dependency on America has yet to come to terms with how Washington now perceives the world.

The paradox remains of Japan behaving as an economic and financial superpower while still uncertain and half-hearted about how to deal with all other global issues. It is far from clear whether Japan really wants to be a leader of international society. The only alternative is for the country to remain a follower, stumbling along in the footsteps of others.

If Japan is to accept the challenges of multidimensional responsibilities it must make two psychological shifts. The Japanese state must first secure a consensus that this is indeed the correct way ahead. Japan's allies would then have to make corresponding adjustments in their treatment of Tokyo.

Such a realignment would have to be a two-way process. It could prove uncomfortable for the United States, Japan and for countries in Asia that remain wary of future Japanese intentions toward the region.

The writer is a professor of history at the International Christian University in Tokyo. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

Lasers, Genes and Grandma's Walker

By Katherine Dowling

LOS ANGELES — There's a middle-aged man lying in a grave in Peru. His Moche civilization, 300 years after Caesar, developed a technique for electroplating gold onto copper that would be unknown in Europe for centuries to come. His people built huge irrigation systems. Then something happened.

The man belonged to a society that chose progress through creation of an infrastructure that advanced agricultural and artistic achievements. But at some point, advancement gave way to implosion, and his people eventually ceased to exist. We don't know why.

There are nine multiprogram laboratories, three of them nuclear-weapons laboratories, under the auspices of the U.S. Energy Department. They have thrived during the past 50 years through congressional largess in response to national-security concerns. These labs have brought together researchers whose ability and experience cannot be replicated.

Benefits have spilled over into industry and medicine. For instance, the Lawrence Livermore lab is engaging in subcellular research. The spin-offs, though unpredictable, may help us understand how malignancies develop or can be treated. At Los Alamos, California, software has been developed to help map the human genome, helping us understand and treat genetic diseases. Even weather

predictions may become more accurate as a result of research at Lawrence Livermore.

But now funding for anything military has fallen out of favor and the mission of the national labs has become murky. To address these issues, a re-evaluation was undertaken that resulted in recommendations for restructuring of the labs' mission.

Basic scientific research is a hard sell. It makes no promise of success. Setting up the hardware to do the research is so costly as to be incomprehensible to most folks. As money becomes more scarce, layers of administrators and paperwork have been added to "supervise" research, further frustrating scientists.

And it's easier to comprehend and vote for people-related issues than for those that offer only the possibility of future benefits. Grandma needs a walker now, and poor teenage mothers could use job training. Lawrence Livermore's national ignition facility, using lasers for limited fusion, just can't stick up.

Societies that have progressed beyond the hunter-gatherer level build up excess energy in the form of time and talent. This energy can be applied in one of three ways. The society can tread water, not creating anything new, just maintaining the status quo. It can implode, wasting its talents in frivolity, as did the

Roman Empire. Or it can raise itself up, using excess resources for steady advancement. Stable societies are a luxury of earlier times, which leaves forward or backward movement as the basic choices today.

America is now at the same crossroads the Moche faced. The country can elect, through its national research labs and through enlightened policies that favor private research and development, to advance research, including nuclear physics, and create energy sources for the future. Or it can decide that the welfare and entitlement functions of the government take precedence above research and you've helped a few people, put a lot of researchers out of work and lost expertise forever.

I'd rather see Lawrence Livermore get their lasers than Grandma get her walker. Because if Grandma gets her walker, if Uncle Fred is declared totally disabled because his back hurts and he is too lazy to do the exercises to make it better, then some day my grandchildren will sit on a polluted old planet bereft of energy. And unable to reach the stars. Somehow, I think that gentleman in Peru would understand.

The writer is family physician at the University of Southern California School of Medicine. She contributed this comment to the Los Angeles Times.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1895: Uneasy Austria

VIENNA — The question of anti-Semitism in Austria commences in assume great dimensions, and disquietude prevails in Christian circles. At the conclusion of a meeting last summer at Linz, under the presidency of Prince Liechtenstein, leader of the Anti-Semitic party in the Lower House, a telegram expressing loyalty to the Pope was sent to Rome. The reply suggested the Holy Father approved of the anti-Jewish movement. A council of bishops was thereupon held in Vienna and it was decided that anti-Semitic agitation would be injurious to the cause of Christianity.

1920: Patriotic Chorus

PARIS — Another link in the chain of friendship binding France and America is being forged in public schools of the

U.S. School children are being taught to sing the "Marseillaise," the stirring national hymn of France. On Washington's birthday both the "Marseillaise" and the "Star-Spangled Banner" will rise from thousands of childish voices in America.

1945: Saving the Show

NEW YORK — Thirty members of the Army Air Forces surrounded Radio City station yesterday [Feb. 18] on the mission of recovering a 250-year-old Maggini violin belonging to Private Irving Fink who was to appear on radio station W.J.Z. Private Fink entered a restaurant, parked his Maggini on a chair, and missed it a few minutes later. With the help of his comrades, the suspect was seized before boarding a train at the 50th St. station and booked for grand larceny. Private Fink was 10 minutes late for his broadcast.

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EUROPE

NATO Standards a Tough Hurdle for Eastern Armies

By John Pomfret
Washington Post Service

KRAKOW, Poland — With trademark red berets and a reputation for toughness, the 6th Air Assault Brigade is one of the elite units of Poland's new army, an important cog in Warsaw's designs to join NATO.

One problem is that the 6th Brigade wants helicopters to perform its tasks, but has none. And there is a dispute over exactly what part of the army should command the brigade.

The troubles of this rapid reaction unit, with traditions going back to Polish participation in the World War II battle of Arnhem, illustrate two critical problems facing armies of the former Warsaw Pact as they dream about inclusion in a military alliance that from 1949 to 1989 was their main enemy.

The first is lack of money. Total defense spending in the region this year will be less than half of what it was in 1989.

The second is that command structures and training that made sense under the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact appear incongruous now. And the culture of treating the military like an

exclusive club only delays Eastern Europe's union with the West.

Lately, Russia's adventure in Chechnya has rekindled calls in Eastern Europe and some Western capitals for a faster expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to guarantee security to the countries of the East. But while political pressure mounts for expansion, Western military officials involved in Eastern Europe's transition wonder whether its nations are capable of meeting NATO's standards.

As important, the officials say, are growing concerns that NATO, too, could suffer from a hasty decision to augment the 16-member alliance. Even among the region's most likely new members — Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary and maybe Slovakia — creating a NATO-compatible force could take years, if not decades, these experts say.

To prepare former Warsaw Pact nations for possible NATO membership, the Clinton administration has decided to permit sales to them of jet fighters, tanks and other sophisticated offensive weapons, U.S. officials said Friday.

Most of the countries would be unable to afford the most expensive

weapons, such as F-16 jet fighters, but U.S. military assistance might offset the cost. Arms sales to the countries could improve their ability to contribute to the alliance. All the former Warsaw Pact countries have expressed interest in acquiring secure communications equipment that would allow them to communicate with their potential partners.

Military reforms, launched in all the countries of the East and generally intended to bring Eastern Europe closer to the West, appear to have run afoul of poor cash flow and strong resistance among senior officers accustomed to the perquisites of power. Efforts to assert civilian control over the military are also generally failing.

However, some reforms have gone through. Communist political commissars, charged with ensuring the loyalty of the armed forces, have been abolished. So, too, has the lopsided deployment of East European troops.

In 1989, for example, there were 200,000 Czechoslovak soldiers deployed on the border with East Germany. Today there are barely 30,000 Czech soldiers there. In 1992, more than 60 percent of the Polish Army was arrayed along its frontier with Germany and only 10 percent along its

eastern front. By the end of this year, three times the manpower and weaponry will face the former Soviet Union, while the Western border deployment will have dropped to 40 percent.

But the main result of the reforms, according to one senior Western military official who studies Eastern Europe, has been to gut the Warsaw Pact, not to create new national armies capable of mounting a credible defense.

"Breaking up the Warsaw Pact was like chopping the limbs off a body," the official said. "But since then, nothing much else has been done. Now these armies couldn't fight themselves out of a wet paper bag." The exception, the official noted, was Romania, ironically one of the poorest of the East European countries.

Although NATO has only begun to codify standards for new members, broadly they involve two main categories, enunciated by Joseph Krulic, U.S. deputy assistant secretary of defense, during a visit to Warsaw late last year: "First, an unshakable commitment to the democratic process, including a commitment for civilian control of the military; and secondly, an ability to contribute to collective defense and security."

So far, Eastern Europe does not

qualify. None of the armies in Eastern Europe, except that of the Czech Republic, is deemed by Western officials to be truly controlled by civilian authorities.

President Lech Walesa of Poland fired his defense minister after he proposed placing control of the army directly under the civilian-dominated Defense Ministry, Mr. Walesa wanted to bypass the ministry and have the army controlled by the chief of general staff, who is appointed by the president.

"Instinctively, our generals see the need for changes, but they can't accept the limitations on their power and civilian control," said Piotr Kolodziejczyk, the ousted defense minister, in an interview. "This is a significant problem, and it is an indispensable part of the reforms."

The Czech Republic, though its army is firmly controlled by its civilian government, faces other, severe problems, Western officials said.

By the end of 1995, the army plans to shrink to 65,000 soldiers and cut its tanks, artillery and armored personnel carriers well below the ceiling set by the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, according to Jiri Sila, a Defense Ministry official.

BRIEFLY EUROPE

Major's Leadership Weakened

LONDON (Reuters) — Prime Minister John Major's power was weakened further Sunday by the death of a Conservative member of Parliament from Scotland and signs that feuding within the governing party over the European Union was refusing to die down.

The death of Nicholas Fairbairn put the Scottish Nationalist Party, which finished a close second to the Conservatives in 1992, in a strong position to grab Mr. Fairbairn's Perthshire seat. Such a loss for the Conservatives would widen its minority in the House of Commons to seven seats.

Meanwhile, a former Conservative prime minister demanded the dismissal of cabinet ministers who did not subscribe to Mr. Major's call for Britain to be "at the heart of Europe."

Gibraltar Victims' Families Appeal

STRASBOURG (Reuters) — The European Court of Human Rights will consider Monday a request to condemn Britain over the 1988 killings of three Irish guerrillas by British soldiers in Gibraltar.

The court will consider a plea by relatives of Daniel McCann, Mairead Farrell and Sean Savage that they were killed in violation of Article 2 of the European Human Rights Convention, which guarantees the right to life. The court is not expected to rule immediately.

The three unarmed members of the Irish Republican Army were shot March 6, 1988, on a Gibraltar street by soldiers of the elite SAS corps in civilian clothes.

Poll Hints at Closer French Race

PARIS (AP) — In another sign that France's presidential race could be closer than expected, a weekend opinion poll showed a steep plunge in the popularity of the frontrunner, Prime Minister Edouard Balladur.

Mr. Balladur's approval rating dropped to 46 percent, from 55 percent last month, in a poll of 1,886 eligible voters conducted by the IFOP agency for the weekly Journal du Dimanche.

The prime minister, head of the center-right government since March 1993, remains the favorite to succeed President François Mitterrand, a Socialist, in May. But the Socialist nominee, Lionel Jospin, has been gaining strength in the polls, and Mr. Balladur's chief conservative rival, Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris, has been encouraged by increasing signs that the prime minister may be vulnerable.

First-round voting is scheduled for April 23. If no candidate gets 50 percent, the top two vote-getters will compete in a runoff May 7.

Calendar

European Union events scheduled for Monday:

BRUSSELS: The European Commission president, Jacques Santer, outlines the commission's economic and financial priorities.

BRUSSELS: Council of EU agriculture ministers discusses, in public session, agricultural prices for 1995-96 and problem of transporting animals by road.

BRUSSELS: Foreign Minister Alain Juppé of France makes a statement on behalf of France, the current EU president, to the European Parliament external relations committee.

BRUSSELS: Manuel Marín, EU commissioner for the Middle East and Latin America, to address the European Parliament budget committee.

Sources: Agence Europe, AFP.



WITH A BANG — The alleged Serbian war criminal Zeljko "Arkan" Razmatovic, center, marking his wedding Sunday.

Bosnian Army Battles Muslim Rebels in Bihac

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina — Bosnian government forces and Muslim rebels pounded each other with artillery and fought on the ground for a third day running on Sunday near the rebels' stronghold in the Bihac enclave, a United Nations spokesman said.

In another step backward in peace efforts, rival Bosnian Serb and Croatian local commanders refused to attend scheduled meetings under UN auspices.

In Bihac, where a war within a war has raged for weeks despite the cease-fire, infantry backed by mortar barrages fought on Saturday and on Sunday morning east of Velika Kladusa, the stronghold of the rebel leader Fikret Abdic.

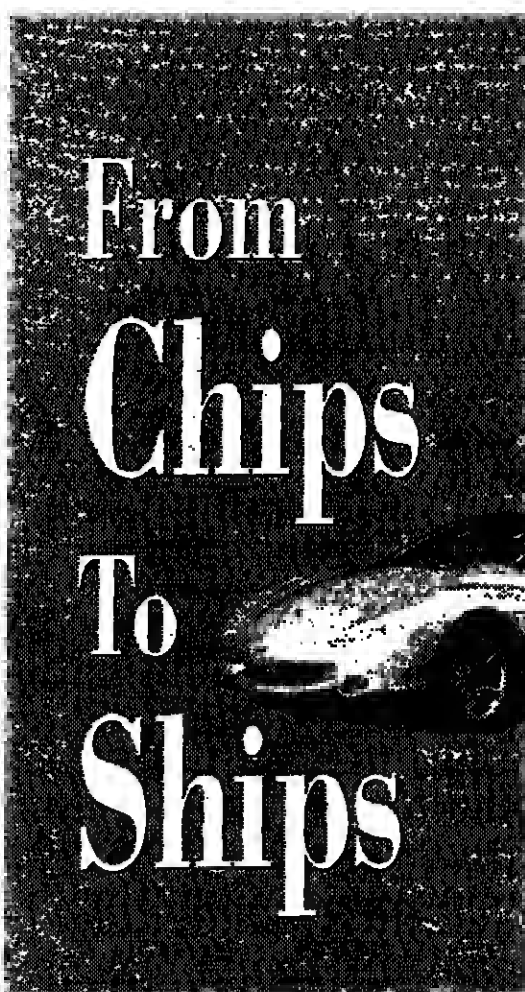
"They are fighting for ground, but we haven't seen a change in the confrontation line or any major successes," said the UN spokesman in Sarajevo, Lieutenant Colonel Gary Coward.

More than 244 detonations — military parlance for heavy weapons fire — were counted over the period, he said. Sporadic fighting also took place near Bihac town, where the Muslim-led government's 5th Corps is bottled up by Mr. Abdic's forces.

UN Inspectors Seek More Iraqi Arms Data

BAGHDAD — Describing progress at destroying Iraq's arsenal of dangerous weapons as "too slow," Rolf Ekeus, the United Nations official in charge of the arms destruction program, arrived Sunday in Baghdad looking for more data, especially on biological weapons research.

Under the terms of the cease-fire that ended the Gulf War in 1991, Iraq is required to rid itself of weapons of mass destruction.



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INTERNATIONAL

Africa's New Guerrillas: Pillage, No Politics

By Howard W. French
New York Times Service

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone — Somewhere just beyond the mountainous peninsula that houses this rumpled capital lies a war zone that is defined not by battles pitting government forces against armed rebels, but by the steady hit-and-run handiwork of a new type of African guerrilla warfare.

In four years of fighting for control of this loosely governed country of 4 million people, the shadowy rebels of the Revolutionary United Front have abandoned their efforts to hold onto conquered territory and have given up all pretense of a political rationale for their struggle.

Instead, their strategy, in addition to making a handsome living from pillage, seems to be to raise feelings of insecurity to the panic level. To achieve this, their increasingly destructive campaign consists nowadays of long marches through the countryside, where they have torched dozens of villages, taken hundreds of hostages, and sniped at army convoys.

In their most dramatic advance since the start of the war in 1991, the rebels recently reached the outskirts of this city in a series of attacks that have resulted

in the taking of 17 foreign hostages, including seven Roman Catholic nuns, whose whereabouts remain unknown.

Before melting back into the hush, the guerrillas also briefly took over an American-owned titanium mine, and closed other mining operations that generate two-thirds of the country's export earnings.

"They don't control anything," said the exasperated information minister, Arnold B. Gooding. "But they wreak havoc. They kill innocent villagers, kidnap young boys and force them into service, burn down rice farms and even shoot the cows."

"They take hostages and don't even ask for ransom," he said. "The only parallel we have been able to think of for this kind of thing is Pol Pot."

International observers here say that they are as befuddled as officials of Sierra Leone's government about the aims of the rebel movement or even of the identity of its leaders. But with tens of thousands of refugees already spilling over into neighboring Guinea, they regard it as a frightening new trend in a region in which amorphous bands of disgruntled men in arms — in this case perhaps no more than 400 — have recently discovered their ability to hold sway over broad stretches of countryside.

"These are young men who have seen Liberia and decided you can make a good living by ripping a country apart," said a Western diplomat, referring to the five-year-old civil war in that neighboring country, which many officials believe served as a model for the rebellion here.

Diplomats and military leaders of Sierra Leone say that the rebel movement, known by its initials as the RUF, was founded by a cashiered army photographer named Foday Sankoh. It is believed to have been armed by the Liberian rebel leader, Charles Taylor, in retaliation against Sierra Leone for providing a forward base for a regional peacekeeping army deployed in Liberia.

Mr. Sankoh's initially stated goal was to overthrow the corrupt dictatorship of Joseph Momoh. But Mr. Momoh, a former army general, was overthrown in a 1992 coup by junior officers led by a 27-year-old captain named Valentine Strasser, who promised to organize democratic elections. Deprived of their original rationale, Mr. Sankoh's rebels fought on nonetheless.

Mr. Strasser's government has pledged to hold free national elections later this year, and has pleased international creditors with its management of Sierra Leone's nearly ruined economy.

But diplomats say that Mr. Strasser's government has proved inept at fighting the rebels.

Mr. Strasser quickly expanded Sierra Leone's Army in order to combat the rebellion. Senior officers now admit that in their haste to do so, they recruited everyone willing to join — from teenagers and street thugs to enemy infiltrators.

Government troops chasing after the rebels often loot whatever their adversaries have failed to take.

"They may have started out fighting for the dispossessed, meaning the ordinary Sierra Leonean," a diplomat said. "But it seems that they quickly found out that there was another class of dispossessed who would pay for their services. That is the only way to explain how they've been able to sustain this."

■ Rebel Base Seized

A major rebel base in central Sierra Leone has been "completely destroyed" and 94 rebels killed, Agence France-Presse reported Friday from Freetown, quoting a military official.

The official called the base "a strategic point from which rebels had carried out almost nonstop ambushes and attacks" on a highway leading to the Kono district.



FINAL HOMAGE — An Iranian paying respects on Sunday to a relative killed in the 1980-88 war with Iraq. A mass funeral, attended by the country's senior leaders, was held in Tehran for 3,000 Iranian soldiers whose bodies were only recently discovered.

AIRLINES: Former Rivals Team Up to Circle Globe

Continued from Page 1

cross shareholdings or equity stakes, already link Singapore Airlines, Delta Air Lines and Swissair; British Airways, Qantas Airways and USAir, and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines and Northwest Airlines.

Northwest and Air New Zealand said last week they would begin an international marketing agreement starting March 1. Under the agreement, the two carriers will take part in each other's frequent flyer programs, share airport facilities and offer joint fares and sales support.

Last month, Malaysia Airlines and Virgin Atlantic Airways of Britain announced a wide-ranging partnership under which the airlines will operate joint flights from London to Kuala Lumpur, with service on to Australia.

Officials said that the arrangement, to start in April, would increase passengers and profits for both carriers, giving Malaysia Airlines greater access to the United States through code-sharing with Virgin Atlantic and extending the reach of Virgin in Asia.

National carriers in Asia and

the Pacific are being forced into commercial alliances with former rivals from outside the region to cut costs and increase the pool of potential passengers.

"Competition has never been stronger in the airline industry, and keeping costs under control is a major priority," Mr. Thammachon of Thai Airways said.

The Asia-Pacific region is the fastest growing aviation market in the world, and U.S. and European airlines regard increased penetration of the region as vital to their future profitability.

Jim Goodwin, senior vice president of United Airlines' international division, said that China, India and Southeast Asia were dynamic markets as a result of rapid economic growth, an opening up to the West and an expanding middle class.

He said that United's strategy in China would be to increase its own flights there and to reach agreements with China's regional airlines to share passengers.

Peter Harbison, managing director of BDW Aviation Services, a consulting firm in Sydney, said that cooperation

between Asian and intercontinental airlines would continue to grow as European and U.S. carriers entered the Asia-Pacific region in greater strength.

Even though many Asia-Pacific airlines preferred to remain free of such alliances, "operating and strategic pressures" to increase traffic and profits would force them to cooperate with Western carriers, he said.

Christian Blanc, chairman of Air France, the struggling French flag-carrier, recently told the newspaper Le Monde that the airline was negotiating with potential alliance partners in Asia and the United States.

Delta Air Lines and All Nippon Airways announced in June that they had agreed to discuss a wide-ranging business alliance, which could be the first such deal between a Japanese and a U.S. airline.

The two airlines said they were exploring cooperation in passenger and freight services, flight schedule coordination, enhancement of computer reservation systems, participation in each other's frequent-flyer programs and possible code-sharing.

HESSE: Free Democrats Score

Continued from Page 1

66 percent, the lowest level since 1950. Friedrich Bohl, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's chief of staff, said that "we have not achieved our goal" of toppling Mr. Eichel.

A jubilant Mr. Eichel told supporters in Wiesbaden: "We have reached the main aim of leading the government for the next four years with an increased lead."

The Greens, who say their four-year coalition with the Socialists is a model for a future Bonn government, took 12.1 percent in the ARD projections and 11.5 percent in ZDF.

The resulting share of seats in the assembly in Wiesbaden was expected to be 44 for the Socialists, compared to 46 previously; 44 for the Christian Democrats against 46 before, 9 for the Free Democrats, compared to 8, and 14 for the Alliance90/Greens (10).

The Christian Democratic campaign was headed by Manfred Kanther, Mr. Kohl's

interior minister in Bonn. He had planned to form a government with the Free Democrats, Mr. Kohl's coalition partner in Bonn, if they had won a majority.

The Christian Democrats slipped to the status of second-biggest party in the state with 38.2 percent, according to ARD, and 38.4 percent by ZDF. It won 40.2 percent in the 1991 Hesse election, but Mr. Kohl's standing has been slipping because of discontent over the way he has handled problems stemming from Germany's 1990 unification.

Mr. Kohl's governing coalition's majority in the lower house of Parliament, the Bundestag, fell from 134 seats to 10 in federal elections last October.

Because the Social Democrats govern nine of Germany's 16 states, they dominate the upper parliamentary house, called the Bundesrat, where they are able to block legislation proposed by Mr. Kohl.

(Reuters, AFP, AP)

TRUFFLES: Sniffing a Fraud

Continued from Page 1

Asian fungus began appearing two years ago, several hundred tons of truffles have been flown in from the provinces of Shan-dong and Szechuan. This year, Chinese truffles have become a plague.

In recent years, France has taken drastic measures to protect the identity of its most cherished foods from inferior foreigners. Cheeses are stamped with guarantees of their origin; Breese chickens bear telltale blue claws that protect against forgery.

But truffle fraud is far more difficult to detect. "Since the Chinese and French truffles have the same look and feel to them," said Michel Rostang, the famed Paris chef and restaurateur, "the only way to know the difference is to have a trained palate taste and identify them. But that's not a very practical way to enforce honesty in the business."

His own foolproof method, he says, is to sample the truffle on a piece of toast with salt and olive oil; an even better way to bring out the pure flavor of truffles is to mix them in scrambled eggs.

The discovery of the scam in France is all the more galling because of the hallowed place that the fungus occupies in national lore. French literature is larded with glorious references to the truffle's healthful and aphrodisiac properties; whether such claims are true does not seem to matter.

"We have nothing against the Chinese farmers who want to cultivate their truffles, but they should be sold under their own name and not confused with ours," said Mr. Rostang, who has earned his living digging up and studying truffles in southern France for more than 30 years.

TROOPS: New U.S. Role

Continued from Page 1

770,000 soldiers in 1989 to slightly fewer than a half-million, a 36-percent cut, the force in Europe by the end of this year will have been slashed 70 percent, from 213,000 to 65,000.

That entails a 75-percent cut in combat battalions, from 147 to 37, and a two-thirds reduction in installations, from 858 to 295.

Beyond sheer numbers, perhaps the most drastic change in Europe is in mission — what the military is supposed to do.

"We always considered ourselves a forward deployed force, that we were already where we were supposed to be," said Lieutenant General Jerry R. Rutherford, commander of V Corps in Heidelberg.

Instead, Europe has abruptly become a launchpad for operations all over the world. Since the end of the 1991 Gulf War, the army in Europe has sent 22,000 troops on 51 deployments to 30 different countries. This is roughly double the number of soldiers deployed in the three decades before Operation Desert Storm.

"The variety of missions, the scope of training and the operational responsibility is much wider than before," said Major General L. Don Holder, commander of the 3d Infantry Division, one of two army divisions left in Europe. "Everything is in bounds. Nothing is beyond possibility." He added: "We can't really specialize like we used to."

In less than two years, General Holder has sent a battalion to Kuwait, a company to Russia, a task force to Spain and assorted detachments to Haiti, Rwanda, Hungary, Romania and elsewhere. European-based American troops have been to Somalia and Croatia, where two army field hospitals deployed, and the 1st Armored Division is preparing for duty in the former Yugoslav republics if the United Nations operation is withdrawn.

Although many soldiering skills can be transferred from one mission to another, commanders and their troops these days must master a broad spectrum of military tasks. Peacekeeping duty in Macedonia, with impartial, open patrolling under a UN flag, is different from the stealth and lethality that are critical in combat. And the technical demands of modern warfare, such as how to synchronize air power, artillery, deception and a thousand other factors, are highly perishable skills if not practiced routinely.

"There are six mechanized infantry battalions left in Germany and at any one time, half of them are off their Bradleys, armored fighting vehicles, and involved with Macedonia, either coming back, getting ready to go or being there," said one senior commander. "That's taking soldiers who are the best trained in the world for heavy combat and having them do something else."

The new demands can be frustrating for young commanders.

"The peacekeeping drill and the mission creep means now that the box is too big," said Lieutenant Colonel Jim Warner, an infantry battalion commander. "Pretty soon you throw up your hands and assume that you're never going to be able to completely cover anything."

Train Kills 3 Wire Thieves

The Associated Press

PARIS — Three men trying to steal copper wiring from a railroad track were struck and killed by a passenger train near Evry, 35 kilometers south of Paris, police said Sunday.

AMERICAN TOPICS

Smoking Bans Add a Burden For Mentally Ill in Hospitals

Advocates for the mentally ill say that the anti-smoking restrictions that are sweeping the United States are creating a cruel burden for mental patients.

As ever more hospitals restrict smoking, they say, patients are being forced to either give up or cut back on cigarettes precisely when they are the sickest and under the most stress.

Ruth Posner, former president of the Nassau County and Queens, New York, chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and the mother of a 45-year-old schizophrenic, says, "To expect patients to kick the habit when they're going into the hospital, which is an awful event to begin with, is really cruelty to the nth degree."

Hospitals insist that smoking causes an unacceptable health risk for patients and staff. Advocates like Mrs. Posner reply that some people may delay going into the hospital or refuse treatment altogether because of smoking restrictions.

Surveys show that 70 percent to 90 percent of schizophrenics and half of

those suffering from severe depression are smokers, compared with a third of the entire population.

In New York, state and city smoking laws have stopped short of forcing hospitals to ban smoking, giving them the option of having specially ventilated smoking areas.

Short Takes

Up to half of the world's 6,000 living languages will probably become extinct during the next century, experts predicted at a conference in Atlanta of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Modern communications let people speak to each other instantly all over the world, and drive the need for languages that many understand. Usually that language is English. Linguists concede this is not necessarily bad. But they urge the preservation of minor tongues as second, or even third, languages. In prehistoric times, between 10,000 and 15,000 languages were spoken. California has about 50 languages, mostly American Indian. All of them are in trouble.

For more than a century, one of the events of the year in American small towns was the circus parade from rail yard to tent ground. Horses, camels and elephants proceeded under their own power; lions and tigers rolled along in

cages. Clowns cavorted alongside. No longer, thanks to economics (the parades cost time and money), insurance (what if an animal bolts into the sidewalk crowd?) and protests from animal rights militants that the parade is just one more abuse. These days, the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, long the biggest in the country, creeps into town after dark. "Things are a lot more regulated than they were five years ago," a spokesman said. "Risk management is much more involved."

Not everything is falling before the onrush of civilization, however. The last of Manhattan's elevated lines, the giant four-track railroad viaduct going up Park Avenue from 111th Street to the Harlem River, built in 1897, is being rebuilt in a \$120 million Metro-North Commuter Railroad project.

How to stop drivers from falling asleep and drifting off the highway? The Pennsylvania Turnpike adopted a simple and highly effective solution that is being widely copied, according to the International Bridge, Tunnel & Turnpike Association in Washington. The cement or asphalt shoulders on both sides of the roadway are heavily corrugated, providing enough sound and vibration to awaken most drivers. The association says this has cut drift-off accidents by two-thirds.

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INTERNATIONAL

West Agrees on Rwanda Relief

\$600 Million Reflects New Hope of a Recovery

By Jonathan C. Randal
Washington Post Service

KIGALI, Rwanda — Western governments have set aside lingering suspicions about Rwanda's new government and committed nearly \$600 million to help the country on a perilous road to recovery.

Ten months after the start of ethnic bloodshed and civil war that cost an estimated half million lives, UN officials and foreign aid workers say there is hope that the morally and physically shattered country can be put back together.

Some diplomats and aid officials said donor governments are cooperating with Rwanda's new rulers to compensate for not having acted during the unchecked slaughter of Tutsis and moderate Hutus last spring by a hard-line Hutu extremist regime.

The Hutu rulers were ousted in July by the Tutsi-led Rwandan Patriotic Front, which installed the present government. But donor nations kept the administration at arm's length for months, fearing that it would seek reprisals against Hutus who did not flee the country and would deny the Hutu majority any measure of power.

But now donor countries seem content to disburse aid while maintaining a careful watch on the authorities' performance.

Donors pledged last month to offer Rwanda balance-of-payments help, funding for refugees

abroad and inside the country, project aid for economic development and much-needed money for the barely functioning state machinery.

The \$588 million represented three-quarters of the government's \$764 million request. That "incredible response," according to a diplomat, reflected a realization "that if the international community allowed the genocide here to go unpunished, it would be sending a terrible message to the rest of the world." The U.S. pledge was for \$60 million.

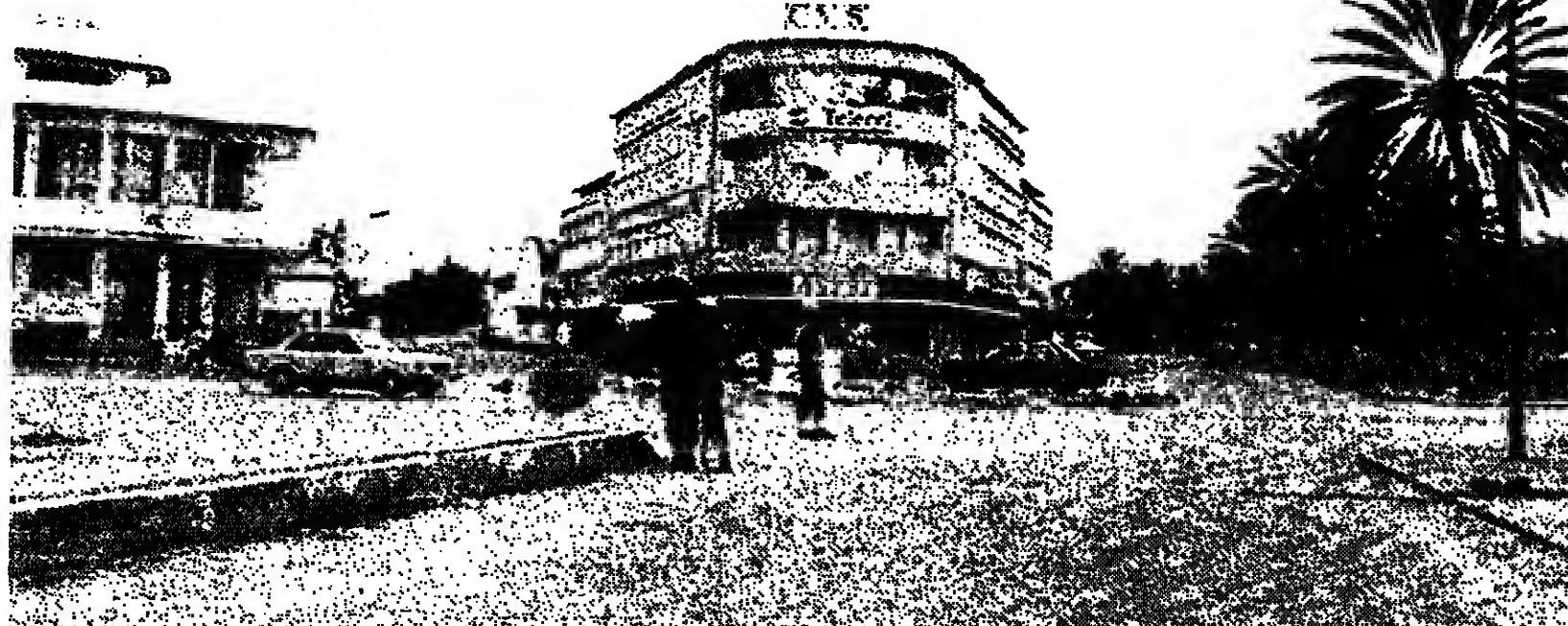
Compared with where Rwanda stood only months ago, the country's leaders are "much more comfortable," Prime Minister Faustin Twagiramungu said in an interview.

"After six months during which the government received no bilateral aid, we now are satisfied," said Mr. Twagiramungu, one of two high-ranking Hutu moderates in the Tutsi-dominated government.

The aid package, he said, "marked an important turning point" because the donor community "recognized our government."

Yet, neither the government nor international aid workers are convinced that success is ensured.

Nearly two million Rwandans, most of them Hutus who fled as the old government fell, are in refugee camps in Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire. Among them are the defeated regime's politicians, soldiers and militiamen who planned, ordered and led the genocide.



BURUNDI WATCH — Soldiers patrolling a nearly deserted crossroad of the Burundi capital, Bujumbura, amid a general strike called by the Tutsi-dominated opposition to press for Prime Minister Anatole Kanyenkiko to quit. The strike, begun Tuesday, has led to violence between Tutsi and Hutu.

BRIDGE

By Alan Truscott

THE diagramed deal from the Fall Nationals in Minneapolis, on which Dan Hirschman sat South, helped him become, at age 9, the youngest regional winner.

When he responded one heart to one club, his partner, Jane Steinhardt of Southfield, Michigan, made a dramatic, if precipitous, leap to six hearts. After any lead but a club, the slam would have had good chances, but West produced the club seven.

South played low from dummy, with a slight chance that West had led from the king, and East won. A club return was won with the queen, and South had to face the problem of the trump suit.

One possibility was to lead to the queen, hoping for a doubleton or singleton king in the West hand or a singleton ten with East. That would have been slightly wrong. Instead, South made the correct play by leading the jack for a finesse.

This was covered by the king,

NORTH (D)

♠ A

♥ A Q 5 2

♦ A K 9 5 4

♣ A 8 8

EAST

♠ K 10 5 3 2

♥ K 10 6 4

♦ 7 2

♣ 7 3

SOUTH

♠ 8 6 4

♥ J 9 8 7

♦ Q J 10

♣ Q 10 4

Both sides were vulnerable. The

bidding:

North East South West

1 ♠ 1 ♠ Pass Pass

6 ♥ 6 ♥ Pass Pass

West led the club seven.

BORDERLINERS

By Peter Hoeg. Translated from Danish by Barbara Haveland. 277 pages. \$22. Farrar, Straus & Giroux.

Reviewed by Michiko Kakutani

LIKE Peter Hoeg's last novel, *"The Sense of Snow,"* "Borderliners" is one of those books that functions on two levels.

"Smilla" was both a thriller and a philosophical meditation on the human condition; "Borderliners" is a harrowing tale of an orphan's ordeals within the Danish child-care system and a philosophical meditation on the nature of time.

The biggest difference between the two novels—and it is a huge one—has to do with language and tone. Whereas "Smilla" boasted a marvelously eccentric narrator, who related her story in wry, impatient prose, "Borderliners" features an evasive and depressed narrator, who cloaks his anxiety in windy, metaphysical asides.

WHAT THEY'RE READING

• Antonio Gutiérrez, secretary-general of Spain's Workers' Commissions labor union, is reading "Buddha of Suburbia," by Hanif Kureishi.

"It's a story in the England of the 1970s, when the nation still knew how to mix races and cultures, producing a tolerance infinitely more enriching than Thatcher's values of individualism and Puritanism that followed." (Al Goodman, IHT)



The result? "Borderliners" is a willfully elliptical narrative that often tries the reader's patience. As a reader gradually discovers, "Borderliners" is narrated by a man named Peter, who not only shares the author's first name but also says he was adopted by a family named Hoeg when he was 15. The story Peter relates takes place in the 1960s and early '70s, in the years before his adoption.

The fictional Peter tells us that he spent his early years at a series of institutions for orphans: first a home for infants,

then a children's home, a reform school and a school for troubled but academically gifted children.

The last was known as Crusty House. Peter says, because of the crusts the students "had to make do with instead of proper bread." After he is nearly raped by a teacher there, Peter is transferred, under a special program, to an elite private school, Biehl's Academy.

The portrait Peter draws of Biehl's makes the school seem like a miniature police state: Children are monitored day

and night by a strict and unforgiving staff, and transgressions are punished with reprimands, blows and beatings. Peter soon begins to suspect that there is a secret "plan" behind the school's strict regimen, a plan he determines to expose.

In the course of his troubled tenure at Biehl's, Peter manages to make two friends he will treasure for the rest of his life: Katarina, a beautiful girl with whom he promptly falls in love, and August, a psychotic boy whom he adopts as a kind of son.

In retrospect, Peter observes, his love for Katarina and August has taught him the meaning of family and responsibility; it has given him hope and the will to live.

With the help of Katarina and August, Peter begins to conduct an investigation of the school. He suggests, in portentous asides to the reader, that some sort of Darwinian experiment is being conducted with the students. As evidence, he cites some disturbing incidents: a student's attempt to cut off his own tongue, the administra-

tion of sedatives to August, the concealment of student records. Although Hoeg is intermittently able to use such incidents to orchestrate a sense of narrative tension, one later learns that many of them are little more than deliberately placed red herrings, a realization that leaves the reader with a vague sense of dissatisfaction.

To make matters worse, Peter embroiders his story with pretentious musings about the nature of time. "What is time?" he asks near the beginning of the novel. "I shall have to try to say, but not yet. It is too overwhelming for that. You have to begin more simply. What does it mean—to measure time? What is a timepiece?"

And later: "To sense time, to speak about time, you have to sense that something has

changed. And you have to sense that within or behind this change there is also something that was present before. The perception of time is the inexplicable union in the consciousness of change and constancy."

These highly abstract soliloquies are apparently meant to add resonance to Peter's story, and to underscore one of the novel's central themes concerning the dehumanizing effects of science.

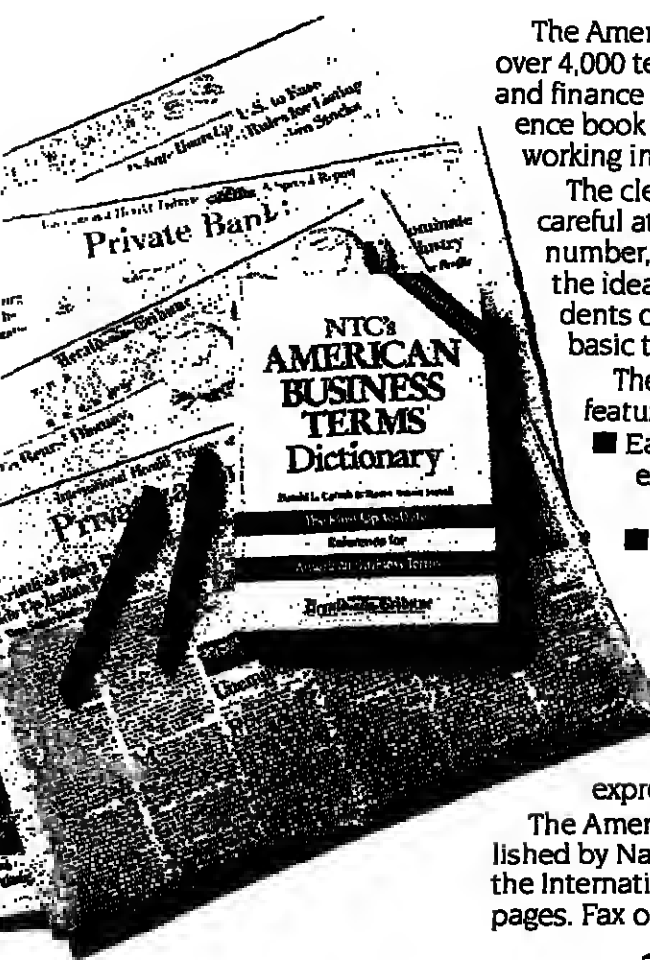
Unfortunately they have another effect entirely: They weigh the story down, turning what might have been a deeply affecting story about a young boy's painful coming of age into a lugubrious and strangely impersonal allegory.

Michiko Kakutani is on the staff of The New York Times.

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The Dictionary incorporates many useful features:

- Each entry has at least one example or explanation in addition to a clear and concise definition.
- Current slang and colloquial words and phrases are included, as well as buzz words and jargon.
- Abundant cross-referencing connects synonymous terms and concepts.
- Numerous abbreviations and acronyms are defined and explained, along with common Latin terms and expressions.

The American Business Terms Dictionary is published by National Textbook Company (Chicago) and the International Herald Tribune. Hardcover, 330 pages. Fax or mail the order coupon today.

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Tuesday

STYLE

From Paris to Milan, from New York to Tokyo, fashion editor Suzy Menkes covers the fashion front. With additional reporting on lifestyle issues, the Style section provides up-to-date information on developments in the changing world of creative design.

Every Tuesday in the International Herald Tribune.

Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

INTERNATIONAL RECRUITMENT

You will find below a listing of employment offers published in last Thursday's International Herald Tribune

POSITIONS	COMPANY	CONTACT
Chief, Information Technology and Communications Bureau (ICOM)	International Labour Office	International Labour Office P/Plan, Room 4-75 (CF) 4, route des Morillons, CH-1211 Geneva Switzerland
Area Sales Manager	Air-Shields Vickers	CELIA RANDALL Delta Consultants Tel.: 01 480 495047
Development Manager Ref: Y 123	Middlesex University	Recruitment Office Middlesex University Bounds Green Road London N11 2NQ - U.K.

'Not Me': The New Corporate Candor

By Margot Slade
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Looking for an excuse? Relax. In a burst of innovation, imagination and, yes, desperation, American business has devised a collection of cop-outs to suit the harried executive who is performance impaired.

Just try these "explanations" for recent foul-ups on for size:

• A missing minus sign is how Fidelity Investments explained a \$2 billion-plus mistake in calculating Magellan fund shareholder payments, saying an accountant omitted the minus from a spread sheet and no one noticed.

• Intel Corp., explaining to millions of owners of Pentium-equipped computers why it was not recalling and replacing the defective chip, said the device only rarely goofed at long division. (The company ultimately agreed to replace, but not recall, the chip, after howls of protest.)

• Among a long list of big-money losers in the derivatives debacle, blue-chip companies such as Gibson Greetings Inc. and Marion Merrell Dow Inc. are explaining their misfortune by saying they are financial rubes.

Don't worry if nothing fits. By all accounts, the market for excuses — good, bad and ridiculous — is growing, a veritable botch of corporate creativity. Scarcely a day goes by without a statement from a captain of industry or mover of money that tries to distance the person in charge — or even the one with the smoking gun — from the latest bottom-line disaster.

To be sure, excuses are a familiar fixture on the American business scene. Just look

at William Agac, late of Bendix and now Morrison Knudsen Corp., whose explanations for management mistakes over a 30-year career must be legend among a select but growing boardroom crowd.

But students of blame say the corporate environment has changed, making excuses now a preferred mode of operation. Paradoxically, the change resulted from an effort to make executives more accountable for their actions, not less.

"There's been a chipping away at the business judgment rule, which states that just because a management decision turns out badly does not make it subject to litigation or regulation," said Clifford W. Smith Jr., the Clarey Professor of Finance at the University of Rochester's Simon School of Business Administration.

The purpose of the rule, Mr. Smith said, was to free management to make decisions without being subjected to the crippling effects of Monday-morning quarterbacking.

But it has also been used to shield executives from valid criticism. "To the extent that plaintiffs' lawyers, the Securities and Exchange Commission or others say they'll scrutinize a company when things go badly and go after its managers with a class action or regulatory club," he said, "the market for excuses will grow."

Fueling that growth is the increased use of consultants, what many executives bluntness describe as expensive but convenient scapegoats.

"My friends who work for Fortune 100 corporations say that whenever questioned, a corporate type can say, 'But that's what the consultants told us to do,'" said Sarah A. B. Teslik, the executive director of the Council of Institutional In-

vestors, an organization of 100 of the nation's largest pension funds.

And with more top and middle management coming from a kind of no-fault "Not Me Generation," that is precisely what contemporary corporate types are likely to say, according to Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, the director of the Center for Leadership and Career Studies at Emory Business School.

"They are children of the '50s — conformists, not mavericks or creators," he said. "As a general rule, they want to duck responsibility, not embrace it."

The not-me attitude, which often translates into a blame-the-others approach, may indeed get an executive off the hook, for a while. But it could prove damaging to the executive's company and eventually the economy, experts say, since the problem in question may wind up being ignored or buried until it recurs or gets worse.

Analysts say that in today's competitive economy, business leaders are so error-averse that they offer euphemistic excuses for plant closings or sluggish sales when unvarnished truth will do. They know, for example, that on Wall Street "restructuring" means never having to say you're sorry," said Jerry Sterner, a businessman-turned-playwright who wrote the Off-Broadway success "Other People's Money."

"Just talk about restructuring as positive and investors will buy it," Mr. Sterner said. "It's really an admission of failure: We're closing this operation and firing these people so that we can stay in business. But we ain't paying the price. The employees, the community — they pay the price. Meanwhile, the executives' salaries go up and their benefits increase because they are making the hard decisions."

Toyota Fails to Win Deal With China

Reuters

NAGOYA, Japan — The president of Toyota Motor Corp., Tetsuro Toyota, returned to Japan from China on Sunday without a deal to make car engines with China's biggest car maker, Shanghai Automotive Industry General Corp.

Mr. Toyota's empty-handed return could ease tension between the United States and China, which are embroiled in a trade dispute over Chinese textile exports and American intellectual property rights, a Toyota source said, asking not to be identified.

"We were welcomed at Shanghai Automobile. But there was no decision on the engine plant joint venture or any indication when a decision might be made," Mr. Toyota said.

With the engine deal eluding him, Mr. Toyota used the five-day trip to strengthen ties between Japan's biggest carmaker and local firms.

The Toyota source said lack of success on the engine deal should please the U.S. carmakers Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp. because both are also bidding for the Shanghai Automobile deal.

CAPITAL: The Perils of Mobility

Continued from Page 1

aries. The size and duration of these deposits would vary according to market conditions.

But like the proposal made by James Tobin, a winner of the Nobel Prize in economics, to impose a small tax on all foreign exchange transactions, the idea has been rejected as too burdensome, unworkable with too many loopholes and likely to drive business to unregulated tax havens.

"It's not workable," snapped a U.S. financial consultant. "If you impose the requirements on the institutions and not on the market, it doesn't matter whether the business is conducted by Citibank in London or in the Cayman Islands."

As for developing countries, Mr. Wyplosz advised that they "hold off liberalizing capital movements until they have properly functioning markets capable of coping with the mobility of capital."

That freedom to move money without restriction — conditions similar to those before this century's two world wars — helped drive down the dollar last week.

"The dollar is at a precipice of a crisis of confidence," asserts Paul Chertkow, London-based analyst at Union Bank of Switzerland. Unless there is concerted intervention by the United States, Germany and Japan, he sees the dollar sliding to 1.4650 Deutsche marks and 96.50 yen.

AGENCY: Virtual Advertising

Continued from Page 1

at the time, approached Hallson about producing a European print campaign shortly after the Singapore-based company had expanded into several European markets.

Mr. Hallberg sent the assignment by e-mail to an advertising creative team he had worked with in Los Angeles. While copy was being written in English, Mr. Hallberg was working on-line with a translation company in Brussels to prepare German and French versions. At the same time, Mr. Hallberg and International Co-Productions were working on-line to physically combine the advertising artwork and copy.

"Except for several face-to-face meetings, Mr. Hallberg used e-mail to manage almost the entire project."

"A traditional agency could earn 17.65 percent commission for the production and 15 percent on media, nearly \$73,000 for the job," Mr. Hallberg said. "I did it for \$32,657 — less than half."

Mr. Holtzman said, "It cost significantly less than a big pan-European agency would have charged with as good if not better service."

Mr. Hallberg said the way agencies worked now was how film studios worked years ago. "Stars, studio, screenwriters, everything under one roof," he said. "Well, the problem in advertising, as Hollywood discovered, is the roof is too expensive today. With the Internet, I can put a project together using top talent anywhere in the world. People come together only as long as needed. And the client doesn't pay for agency cars or people sitting around playing

video games on their computers."

While Hallson might be on the cutting edge of interactive technology, large ad agency groups may find it more difficult to implement such systems. Some, such as Ogilvy & Mather, are in the process of installing worldwide e-mail networks. "But it's much harder and costlier to make it work for 3,000 people than it is for 30," said Ray Koel, worldwide communications director for O&M Direct New York.

At the same time, advertisers must have the same view of technology to allow for these "anytime, anywhere collaborative possibilities," said Andrew Frank, a partner in O&M Direct New York's Interactive Marketing Group.

Mr. Hallberg said large advertisers in particular would be nervous about considering Hallson, despite the potential financial rewards.

"It's a nontraditional setup, so there's a comfort level missing for many marketers," he said. Philip Byford said some clients thought a full-service agency with someone on the ground to look after their local needs was more important than saving money. "They want the resource, the critical mass, even if they don't use it," he said. "It's a perception more than reality."

One O&M executive said that maintaining a vibrant creative product and office energy can only come from personal interaction.

"There are those who feel that e-mail is no substitute for face to face pressing the flesh," the executive said. CyberScope address: CyberScope@lib.demon.co.uk

SHORT COVER

Two Indian Carriers Weigh Merger

NEW DELHI (AFP) — Air India and Indian Airlines should merge to compete in the country's expanding aviation market, but they should continue to be state-owned, said Russi Mody, their chairman, on Sunday.

He told the Press Trust of India that he foresaw the merger in two to three years because a single airline would be more efficient and better placed to be a major player.

But Mr. Mody, who took over the two airlines in November, said he had no plans to privatize Air India, the country's flag carrier, or Indian Airlines, which operates mainly on domestic routes.

Exports Buoy Profit at Saudi Basic

RIYADH (Bloomberg) — Rising exports and cost cuts helped Saudi Basic Industries Corp. to nearly double its profit in 1994, to 4 billion riyals (\$1 billion).

Total production for the company, which is the largest producer of petrochemicals in the Middle East, rose 35 percent in 1994, to 20.7 million metric tons.

NBC Drops Complaints Against Fox

NEW YORK (Bloomberg) — NBC said it dropped its foreign ownership complaint against Fox Broadcasting Co., ending a bitter dispute between the two television networks.

NBC, a unit of General Electric Co., complained to the Federal Communications Commission that Fox's ownership structure violated laws barring foreigners from owning more than 25 percent of a U.S. television station. Fox is controlled by Rupert Murdoch's News Corp., which is based in Sydney, Australia.

NBC said it dropped the complaint because it wanted to resume a normal business relationship with Fox. Robert Wright, NBC's president and chief executive, said the Federal Communications Commission agreed to look into the ownership issues and therefore its complaint was no longer necessary.

McDonnell Douglas Courts Vietnam

HANOI (AP) — McDonnell Douglas Corp. has sweetened its sales pitch to Vietnam by offering 100 percent financing for any airplanes the country may buy, according to reports.

John M. Douglas, the company's general director, made the offer in a meeting with Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, the Communist Party daily Nhan Dan reported Saturday. The company also said it would also train pilots and build installations for servicing.

McDonnell Douglas is one of three aviation companies eager to sell aircraft in Vietnam. Representatives of it two biggest rivals, Boeing Co. and Airbus Industrie, a European consortium, have made several trips to Hanoi in the past few years to press the case for their aircraft.

Forged Dollars Traced in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Hong Kong is being flooded by forged \$100 bills that might be the work of North Koreans in Macao, a Hong Kong newspaper said Sunday.

The Hongkong Standard said \$250,000 worth of the bogus notes had surfaced at local banks since \$100,000 of the bills were discovered eight months ago.

WORLD STOCKS IN REVIEW

See Page 13

Amsterdam

The EOE index fell 4.59 points to 410.95, following weakness over European bourses.

Philips jumped to 56.50 guilders before the release this week of its 1994 earnings. Royal Dutch/Shell fell 2.30 guilders, to 191.50 guilders. Unilever fell 1.30 guilders, to 199.40.

Frankfurt

The stock market declined, held back by the dollar's weakness, the feebleness of some other European currencies and the threat of a metalworkers' strike in western Germany.

The 30-share DAX index ended the week at 2,117.03 points, down 0.6 percent from a week ago.

Threats of strikes in the German metals sector this week hit industrials. Daimler-Benz fell 10.5 DM, to 724.80 DM. BMW lost 10 DM, to 767.00 DM, and Volkswagen fell 4.1 DM, to 413.90 DM.

Hong Kong

Stock prices rose last week, sending the Hang Seng index to 8,043.01 points from 8,012.82 the week before.

Brokers said sentiment remained cautious, with most investors staying out of the market during the Chinese-U.S. trade talks on copyright piracy in China.

Hongkong Bank slipped to end at 80.00 Hong Kong dollars.

London

Fears of renewed inflationary pressures and the pound's slump to its lowest level in nearly two years hit shares last week.

The Financial Times-Stock Exchange 100 index fell to 3,044.2 at the Friday close, down 65.7 points, or 2.1 percent.

Electricity companies rose on the government's approval for the Trafalgar House bid for Northern Electric, fueling speculation of other bids in the sector.

Northern Electric soared 192 pence to 1,172, while Yorkshire Electric was up 55 pence, to 874, and Norweb 25 pence to 839.

Milan

Shares fell last week, hit by worries over the durability of the new Italian government, with the Mibtel index down 325 points at 10,507.

Dealers said investors were cautious because of the uncertainty persisting over the mini-budget due to be presented to Parliament and the resistance it might encounter.

Shares in Banca Di Roma fell at the end of the week to 1,620 lire, while Banca Nazionale dell'Agricoltura ended at 2,750.

Paris

The CAC-40 index fell 2.5 percent, to 1,822.47 points and 1.1 percent below its start-of-year levels.

Uncertainty in French politics three months before presi-

dential elections increased the pressure on the French markets.

Singapore

Share prices rose sharply last week, with sentiment underpinned by strong gains on Wall Street and renewed buying interest in Malaysian stocks.

The key Straits Times Industrials index advanced 63.08 points, to 2,137.13, while the broader-based SES All-Singapore index eased 0.87 points to 511.77.

Top gainer was Development Bank of Singapore, which gained 1 dollar, to 13.90 dollars.

The biggest loser was Jurong Engineering, which fell 50 cents, to 9.50 dollars.

Zurich

The dollar's weakness against the mark depressed the Zurich market last week. The Swiss Performance Index fell 18.97 points, to 1,697.64, a fall of 1.1 percent.

A dealer said the market was hit primarily by the dollar's fall. Cyclical shares were down, while pharmaceuticals rose.

Banks fell, with SBS down 17 Swiss francs, to 366, and CS Holding down 15 to 522. UBS was unchanged at 1,030.

Waigel Skeptical on Union

Reuters

BONN — Germany's finance minister, Theo Waigel, said Sunday that it did not look as if a single European currency could be introduced in 1997, the earliest date envisaged for monetary union in the Maastricht Treaty.

Mr. Waigel said in a radio interview that recent pressure, especially in France, to speed up progress toward a single currency did not alter the fact that strict economic convergence criteria had first to be met.

"Germany will not agree to a slackening of the criteria," a Bayerische Rundfunk broadcaster quoted him as saying. The debate on monetary union has heated up in Germany in the past week, with both the center-right government coalition and the opposition Social Democrats warning against hasty moves that might undermine the Deutsche mark.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said Sunday that currency stability was essential to combat the sort of hyperinflation that Germany suffered between the two world wars.

The introduction of a single currency would automatically be postponed until 1999 if less than half of European Union members failed to fulfill the criteria by 1997.

The Week Ahead: World Economic Calendar, Feb. 20-24

A schedule of this week's economic and financial events, compiled for the International Herald Tribune by Bloomberg Business News.

Asia-Pacific

• Feb. 20: Seoul, S. Korea. Finance Minister Kim Beom-jeon attends two-day meeting of South Pacific finance ministers.

• Feb. 21: Hong Kong. International Business Conference USA to hold a conference on restructuring, marketing and distributing mutual funds in Asia.

• Feb. 22: Sydney. Australian Bureau of Statistics reports company profits for the fourth quarter.

• Feb. 23: Tokyo. Gray Research Inc. unveils new Triton model computer. Canberra. Gov. Gregory, member of the Reserve Bank of Australia, to address National Press Club.

• Feb. 24: Tokyo. Bank of Japan Governor Yasuo Mitsuhashi to give press conference. Tokyo. Edomura and Ohtsuka Shigyo to list their shares on the over-the-counter exchange.

• Feb. 25: Sydney. Fourth-quarter report on corporate investment. Sydney. December housing finance.

• Feb. 26: Sydney. December trade balance. Sydney. December current account. Sydney. December M-2, measured on a three-month average. Forecast: Up 2.9 percent.

• Feb. 27: Frankfurt. Bundesbank February report. Frankfurt. January producer price index.

• Feb. 20: Wellington. Budget policy statement released. Wellington. Budget policy statement released.

• Feb. 21: Wellington. Budget policy statement released. Wellington. Budget policy statement released.

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• Feb. 26: Wellington. Budget policy statement released. Wellington. Budget policy statement released.

• Feb. 27: Wellington. Budget policy statement released. Wellington. Budget policy statement released.

• Feb. 28: Wellington. Budget policy statement released. Wellington. Budget policy statement released.

• Feb. 20: Paris. December industrial production. Forecast: Up 0.3 percent in month and up 1.5 percent in year.

• Feb. 21: Paris. December manufacturing production. Forecast: Up 0.3 percent in month and up 1.5 percent in year.

• Feb. 22: Paris. February urban consumer price index. Forecast: Up 0.4 percent in month and up 3.9 percent in year.

• Feb. 23: Paris. Stockholm January consumer price index. Forecast: Up 1.1 percent in month and up 3.2 percent in year.

• Feb. 24: Paris. Stockholm December industrial production. Forecast: Up 13.7 percent in year.

• Feb. 25: Paris. Stockholm December industrial production. Forecast: Up 13.7 percent in year.

• Feb. 26: Paris. Stockholm December industrial production. Forecast: Up 13.7 percent in year.

• Feb. 27: Paris. Stockholm December industrial production. Forecast: Up 13.7 percent in year.

• Feb. 28: Paris. Stockholm December industrial production. Forecast: Up 13.7 percent in year.

• Feb. 20: Mexico City. Mexican unemployment figures for December. Outlook: The country's jobless rate stood at 3.9 percent in November.

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On March 20th, the IHT will publish a sponsored section in its Asian edition on

FAST TRACK 95: INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS OUTLOOK

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- Bangalore: India's Silicon Valley.

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Consolidated trading for week ended Friday, Feb. 17.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Continued on Page 15

Continued on Page 14

هكذا من الاصل

SPORTS

Villanova Topples No. 1 Connecticut

The Associated Press
Kerry Kittles scored a career-high 37 points and No. 15 Villanova sent Connecticut to a resounding 96-73 defeat Saturday in the Huskies' first home game as the top-ranked U.S. college basketball team.

The Wildcats (19-5, 12-2 Big East) extended the team's winning streak to 11 games and threw themselves into the race for the Big East title. They trail the Huskies by one game and each has four remaining.

They also ended UCONN's 18-game regular-season winning streak, a conference record, and handed the Huskies (20-2, 13-1) their first home loss in 37 games.

No. 4 Kentucky, 87, Florida 77: In Lexington, Kentucky, Rodrick Rhodes scored 23 points, Tony Deik had 19 and a seldom-used guard, Chris Harrison, came off the bench to hit three 3-pointers to spark Kentucky. Florida got a career-high 30 points from Dan Cross.

No. 3 Kansas 78, Kansas State 67: In Manhattan, Kansas, Jerod Hase scored 21 points and Kansas, making full use of a big height advantage, turned back a Kansas State rally for its 12th straight home victory. Kansas State lost its fifth straight but not before giving the Jayhawks a scare.

Oklahoma 94, No. 9 Missouri 79: In Norman, Oklahoma, Ryan Minor scored 11 of his 32 points during a crucial second-half run for Oklahoma. The Sooners ran their record to 13-0 at home. Missouri only led once and was hampered by foul trouble — four players fouled out. Overall, there were 55 fouls called and 81 free throws.

No. 10 Arkansas 85, Mississippi 70: In Fayetteville, Arkansas, Corliss Williamson made seven free throws and Scotty Thurman hit two 3-pointers during a 13-0 run that helped Arkansas win.

Seton Hall 82, No. 11 Syracuse 74: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Seton Hall put itself back in the NCAA tournament picture and spoiled a record-setting day by Syracuse's Lawrence Moten. The victory

COLLEGE HIGHLIGHTS

was the first against a ranked team for Seton Hall and only its fourth in 31 conference games against Syracuse.

No. 13 Arizona St. 74, USC 70: In Los Angeles, Isaac Burton scored 15 of his 20 points in the second half and Arizona State held off a late rally. Mario Bennett added 14 points and Ron Riley 13 for the Sun Devils who sent USC to its ninth consecutive defeat. Stais Roseman led the Trojans with 20 points.

No. 14 Wake Forest 73, No. 20 Georgia Tech 62: In Winston-Salem, North Carolina, Randolph Childress kept off the scoreboard for 24 minutes, helped ignite a 12-0 second-half run as the Demon Deacons beat the Yellow Jackets.

No. 18 Alabama 96, Auburn 73: In Auburn, Alabama, Jason Caffey scored 20 points and Eric Washington added 18 on timely 3-point shooting as Alabama won more convincingly this time after barely escaping with a 2-point victory over the Tigers earlier this month.

No. 21 Iowa St. 108, Colorado 68: In Ames, Iowa, Fred Hoiberg scored a career-

high 41 points, the most by an Iowa State player in more than seven years, and the Cyclones shot 66 percent. Iowa State won by its biggest margin ever in a conference game in a complete turnaround from its first meeting with Colorado. In that game, the Cyclones had 31 turnovers and lost, 71-57.

No. 22 Oklahoma St. 93, Nebraska 53: In Stillwater, Oklahoma, Randy Rutherford scored 22 points and Oklahoma State held Nebraska without an inside point for the first 29 minutes. The seven-foot center, Bryant Reeves, added 20 points for the Cowboys. The Cornhuskers shot just 33 percent and didn't score inside until late in the third quarter.

No. 23 Mississippi State 60, Tennessee 52: At Knoxville, Tennessee, Darryl Watson scored 17 points and Mississippi State started the second half with a 12-2 run. The Bulldogs also got 14 points from Marcus Grant, 12 from Marcus Bullard and 11 from Erick Dampier.

No. 24 Minnesota 66, No. 8 Michigan State 57: In Minneapolis, Voshon Lenard broke out of a shooting slump to score 17 points and the Gophers shut down the Spartans, averaging a 54-53 loss last month to Michigan State despite being huddled by injuries.

No. 25 Purdue 94, Northwestern 57: In West Lafayette, Indiana, Cuomo Martin scored 25 points and set a school career record for 3-pointers. The Boilermakers moved to within a half-game of first-place Michigan State by defeating the Wildcats for the 23rd time in 24 games.

Hornets Hit 62 Percent to Crush Pistons

The Associated Press
Charlotte, North Carolina — Larry Johnson's 29 points on 11-for-14 shooting helped the Charlotte Hornets hit a season-high 62 percent from the field and beat visiting Detroit, 110-88.

The Hornets broke away to a 13-3 lead in the first six minutes as the Pistons missed 11 of 12 from the field en route to 39 percent shooting for the game Saturday. Muggsy Bogues added 14 points on 7-for-8 shooting and 11 assists as the Hornets ended a two-game losing streak and maintained their half-game Central Division lead over Cleveland.

76ers 95, Nuggets 89: In Philadelphia, Dana Barz scored 24 points as the 76ers snapped a four-game losing streak by defeating Denver. The Nuggets, who lost their fifth straight game, tied the score three times in the fourth quarter, but were never able to take the lead. Denver's Rodney Rogers tied the game 87-87 with 2:09 left, but the 76ers outscored the Nuggets 9-2 the rest of the way.

Cavaliers 82, Nets 75: In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Chris Mills scored 23 points and Cleveland limited New Jersey

to 25 second-half points. The Cavaliers, the NBA's best defensive team, won the game by holding the Nets scoreless for 4:33 down the stretch.

Jazz 108, Celtics 98: In Salt Lake City, John Stockton became the first player in NBA history to reach 10,000 assists when Utah defeated Boston. Stockton, who had

NBA HIGHLIGHTS

15 assists for the game and is on pace to lead the NBA in assists for the eighth consecutive season, reached the milestone with 3:41 left in the second quarter when he passed to Karl Malone for a layup. Stockton broke Magic Johnson's NBA record of 9,921 on Feb. 1.

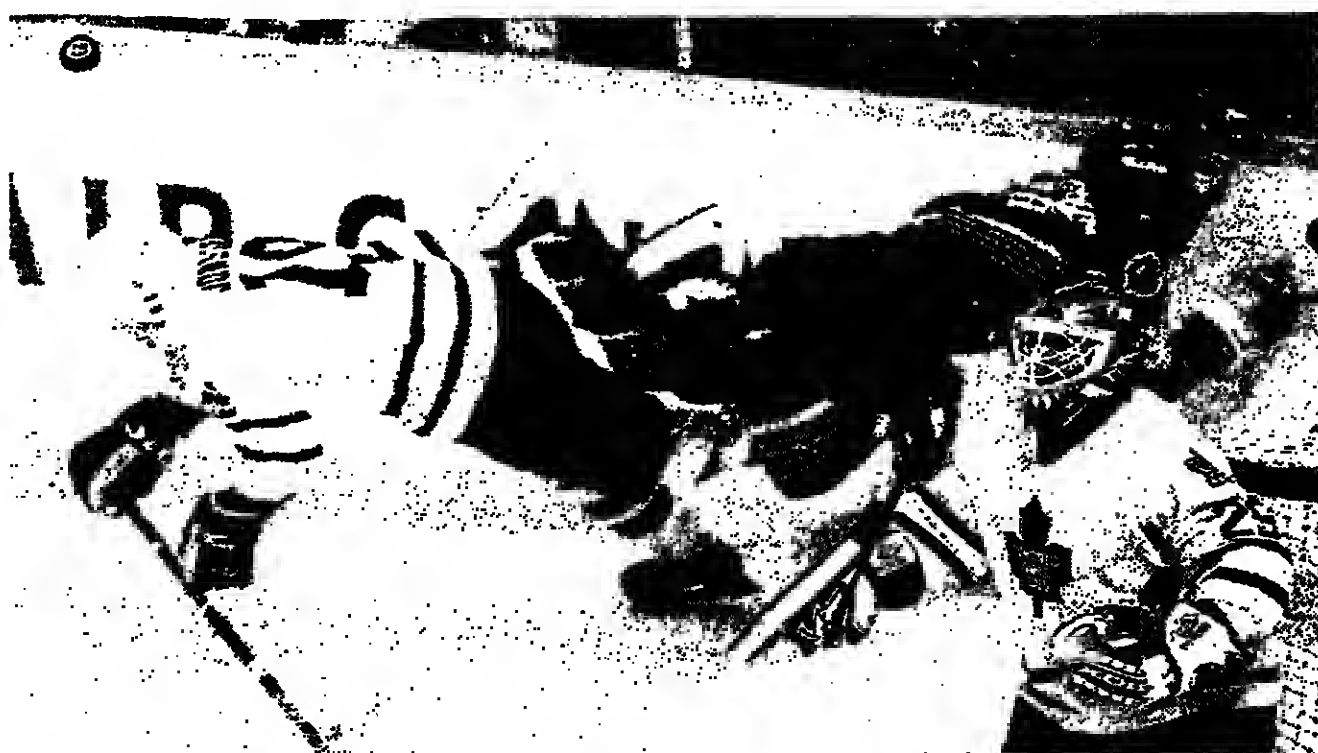
Spurs 111, Hawks 97: In San Antonio, Vinny Del Negro scored a career-high 31 points, boosting San Antonio to victory over Atlanta, snapping the Hawks' four-game winning streak. David Robinson had 24 points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs despite sitting out the fourth quarter, and Sean Elliott got 16 points for San Antonio.

Bucks 118, Bulls 111: In Milwaukee, Vin Baker tied his season high with 27 points and rookie Glenn Robinson had 26 points

and a career-high 17 rebounds for Milwaukee against Chicago. Eric Murdock added a season-high 25 points and 10 assists for the Bucks. Milwaukee grabbed its biggest lead of the game, 99-82, after opening the fourth quarter with a 15-10 run. Toni Kukoc scored 13 of his 27 points in the final quarter as the Bulls tried to rally, but never got closer than five points.

SuperSonics 129, Warriors 117: In Oakland, California, Detlef Schrempf scored 17 of his 31 points in a decisive fourth quarter, leading Seattle past Golden State. The Sonics have won five straight and 11 of 13 meetings against the Warriors, who have not put together back-to-back wins since Dec. 22 and 27. Leading 94-92 early in the fourth quarter, the Sonics scored nine straight points in a span of 1:10 to take control.

Kings 109, Clippers 92: In Sacramento, California, Mitch Richmond scored 25 points as Sacramento defeated Los Angeles. The Kings needed just 48 games to reach 28 victories, their total in 1993-94. They have not won 30 games since the 1985-86 season, an NBA record for futility.



Toronto goalie Felix Potvin keeps his eye on the puck as Kenny Jonsson, left, and the Blues' Glenn Anderson collide.

Whalers Stop Penguins' Bid for Best Start

The Associated Press
HARTFORD, Connecticut — Robert Kron scored twice, including a key goal late in the game, as the Hartford Whalers beat Pittsburgh, 4-2, ending the Penguins' bid for the best start in National Hockey League history.

Kron, who opened the scoring Saturday in the first period, took a forwarding pass from Darren Turcotte in the third period and skated to the top of the left circle. There, he fired a shot in stride and beat goalie Ken Wregget at 16:54.

The goal was important for Hartford, which had seen a two-goal lead cut to 3-2 when Shawn McEachern scored for Pittsburgh at 6:36 into the third.

The loss was the first for Wregget and the Penguins, who dropped to 12-1-1, leaving them two games short of tying the best NHL start held by Edmonton, which started 12-0-3 in the 1984-85 season.

Capitals 4, Nordiques 2: In Landover, Maryland, Craig Berube and Steve Jones scored 32 seconds apart in the third period as Washington beat Quebec, denying the Nordiques a chance to record a franchise-record eighth straight victory.

Quebec entered the game on a seven-game winning streak, matching a franchise record accomplished three times, most recently during the 1983-84 season. The loss cost the Nordiques a chance to tie the team record of five consecutive road victories.

The Nordiques (12-2-0) also missed an opportunity to overtake Pittsburgh (12-1-

1) for the Eastern Conference lead and the best record in the NHL.

Islanders 3, Devils 2: In Uniondale, New York, Troy Loney and Patrick Flatley scored power-play goals 28 seconds apart late in the second period as the New York Islanders beat the New Jersey Devils.

Tommy Soderstrom stopped 29 shots, winning his first game this season.

Lightning 3, Bruins 1: In St. Petersburg, Florida, Roman Hamrik and Jim Cum-

NHL HIGHLIGHTS

mins scored during a 13-second span of the third period as Tampa Bay snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over Boston.

Hamrik beat Boston's goaltender, Vince Riendeau, on a slap shot from the right point on a power play that tied the score at 1-1 at 4:30, and Cummins slid a backhand into the lower right corner at 4:43 to give Tampa Bay the lead. Rob Zammer added an empty-net goal at 19:44 to produce the final margin.

Maple Leafs 3, Blues 1: In Toronto, rookie defenseman Kenny Jonsson scored his first goal in his best game in the NHL as Toronto beat St. Louis.

Brett Hull's power-play goal with 5:15 remaining spoiled the shutout bid of St. Louis's goaltender, Felix Potvin.

Canadiens 5, Rangers 2: In Montreal, Mark Recchi scored two power-play goals to lead Montreal to victory over New York.

The victory kept the Canadiens undefeated at home this season (4-0-2) and evened their record at 5-5-4.

Kirk Muller, Patrice Brisebois and Mark Lamb also scored for the Canadiens, who tied the Rangers 2-2 in New York on Thursday night. Adam Graves and Darren Langdon scored for the Rangers (6-7-2).

Cannucks 6, Kings 2: In Inglewood, California, Jeff Brown fueled Vancouver's power play with a goal and three assists as the Canucks beat Los Angeles and spoiled the debut of the Kings' goaltender Grant Fuhr.

Geoff Courtnall scored twice with the man advantage, and Trevor Linden also had two goals, one on the power play, to help the defending Western Conference champions win for only the third time in 13 games and the ninth time in their last 10 meetings with Los Angeles.

Mighty Ducks 6, Sharks 3: In San Jose, California, Todd Kryger's two second-period goals and shutout goaltending from Guy Hebert, a substitute, lifted Anaheim to victory over San Jose.

The Mighty Ducks (5-8-1) had entered the game tied for last place in the Pacific Division, while the Sharks (7-5-2) began the game in undisputed possession of first place. Flames 3, Stars 2: In Calgary, Alberta, Theodore Fleury scored with 26 seconds left in overtime to lift Calgary over Dallas.

Fleury's goal lifted the Flames (7-5-2) into a first-place tie with the San Jose Sharks in the NHL's Pacific Division.

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET

Consolidated trading for week ended Friday, Feb. 17.
(Continued)

Stocks	Div	Yld	High	Low	Chg	Chg
Alcoa			27 1/8	27 1/8	1/8	0.4
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2
Amgen			21 1/4	21 1/4	1/4	1.2

Consolidated trading for week ended Friday, Feb. 17.
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SPORTS

Scotland Embarrasses France, 23-21, as England Bulldozes Wales

By Ian Thomson
International Herald Tribune

PARIS — "Now, we'll have some fun," announced the Saturday morning front page of L'Equipe, the French sports daily, as it rugby against Scotland would be played perhaps with an ease and a brush. The French had their vision of winning the World Cup in the most brilliant and vivid colors four months from now. But then Gavin Hastings came through bowling over the easels, the brushes snapping underfoot.

Scotland had never won in the Parc des Princes until Saturday, and not in Paris since 1969, when Hastings was 7. Scotland won Saturday dramatically, outrageously, by 23-21, and the predominant color was the dull gray in Gavin Hastings's temples.

The French captain, Philippe Saint-André, thought about it later

and decided, "They were much more simple than we were."

Simple? What does that mean?

"They dominated us mentally and physically," he said.

While France floundered, England flourished in the rain in Cardiff, methodically overcoming Wales, 23-9.

Just three minutes into the Paris match, Saint-André's kick for a 5-0 lead that seemed to put the French back on the evening, daring path. They couldn't recover their 31-10 deficit at England two weeks earlier, but they aimed to rebuild confidence, and so a simple victory of any kind wouldn't be enough against Scotland. The entire huddled team had been invited back for another chance by coach Pierre Berbizier, and they were expected to flourish.

Quickly, then, as they twice more dashed inside the visitors' half in the first 20 minutes, the French could be

seen struggling not only against the Scottish grasp but also against the weight of their own ideal. Fly-half Christophe Deylaud heaved and the goal line disappeared from sight; it was preceded by a Saint-André fumble, an echo of the England match when France lost possession 26 times (the equivalent of one turnover for every minute the ball was in play).

Hastings cannot afford to dither. At 33, in his final season, every day on the field is a struggle for him. Until his recent beating of Canada, Scotland had gone 18 months and nine games without a victory, and Captain Hastings had taken the brunt of it. From those depths the Scots amazingly find themselves 2-0 in the Five Nations Championship, with a home match against Wales positioning them to visit England (3-0) March 18 for the Grand Slam.

The transmutation seemed to

begin in the 23rd minute when Hastings landed a monstrous 55-meter penalty; out of his side of the world and tumbling through the posts at the other end.

The Scots had been playing a safe inside game that by French standards gave the impression of weakness, a fear of daring; but as Hastings came bursting through the middle it turned into the most certain kind of strength. The ball came to center Gregor Townsend, whose kick bounced off the French and back into his arms for his first international try. Within two minutes France's vision had been turned upside down to 10-5. Another penalty by Hastings, who would finish with 18 points, made it 13-5 at the half, when Deylaud was seen arguing with his own scrum-half Guy Acoocheberry.

Berbizier later would fault Dey-

laud's kicking, for a drop-kick under the bar, not out of nowhere, but up through the gut of the French defense. He was gone, and the last meters were his sprinting parade, ducking through the posts as if they were the doorway to the Hôtel de Ville — the crowd standing, half-cheering a half-baffled moan. Dryly he converted the go-ahead. A few moments later the game was over. By now the French were cheering the visitors and booing their own.

For England, the third round Saturday was a day to overcome jinxes; the team won only their second victory in Cardiff since 1963.

It was England's third victory of the championship and if Scotland manages to defeat Wales at Murrayfield in two weeks, Twickenham will host the grand slam decider on March 18 in an ideal aperitif to the World Cup in South Africa.

England did not reach the heady heights of the 31-10 victory over

France two weeks ago but once again their forwards were supreme in the loose and the feeling is growing that England has all the ingredients in place to win the World Cup.

Rory Underwood emulated his brother Tony, who scored twice against France with a brace of tries, his first at the Arms Park, while the Welsh only once looked like crossing the English line.

Wales did provide spirited opposition in the first half with some clever touches from scrum-half Robert Jones who made one incisive break that could have resulted in a try if captain Iwan Evans had held on to the ball.

But when Welsh prop John Davies was sent off for stamping in the 61st minute the game was effectively over.

"We had the game won before the incident," said the England captain, Will Carling. "It was a great win."

(Reuters)

SCOREBOARD

NBA Standings

EASTERN CONFERENCE			
Team	W	L	Pct
Orlando	39	11	.778
New York	37	13	.740
Boston	36	14	.720
New Jersey	31	22	.582
Atlanta	30	23	.566
Philadelphia	28	25	.528
Washington	27	26	.510
Charlotte	23	30	.436
Cleveland	22	31	.412
Indiana	20	33	.377
Chicago	20	33	.377
Atlanta	20	33	.377
Memphis	19	34	.358
San Antonio	18	35	.340

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct
Utah	39	11	.778
San Antonio	37	13	.740
Houston	36	14	.720
Denver	31	22	.582
Dallas	30	23	.566
Minnesota	28	25	.528
Phoenix	27	26	.510
Seattle	26	27	.491
Los Angeles	25	28	.472
Sacramento	24	29	.453
Portland	23	30	.436
Golden State	22	31	.412
LA Clippers	21	32	.395

FRIDAY'S RESULTS

Team	Score	Team	Score
Orlando	94-88	San Antonio	85-82
New York	92-84	Houston	85-82
Boston	91-84	Denver	85-82
New Jersey	84-78	Dallas	85-82
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WESTERN CONFERENCE

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4	2	12	21	32	Woolley); 1st), F-Melkamb
8	2	8	26	36	land); 5-Newly N; Second
Division					kowski; 4-Sweeney; Bourne
1	1	25	63	39	(Mokke, Sweeney); 1st), B
2	0	24	52	20	Muscroft); F-Skardoni 2
3	1	17	42	36	Third Period: B-Donato 2 (H
5	4	14	36	37	5) Beilinger); Shots on goal:
6	1	13	25	27	5-4-5-4. Goals: B, Rlend
8	3	11	37	39	brouck, Fitzpatrick.
9	2	6	27	42	Edmonton
REFERENCE					Detroit
Division					First Period: D-York 1

